



STORY & ART BY
REI HIROE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
**EXPLICIT
CONTENT**

REI HIROE

It's volume 8. It's *Lagoon*'s longest story arc so far.
I hope you can keep up.



Rei Hiroe was born on December 5, 1972. After working at a game company, he debuted as a mangaka in 1993. He has been an active illustrator and dojinshi, and has created many titles released through the dojin community. He is best known for his works, *Hisuikyokitan* and *SHOOK UP!* (both currently available in new formats published by Shogakukan) and his first artwork collection, *Barrage*.

BLACK LAGOON



008

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by
REI HIROE

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RATED
M
FOR MATURE
PARENTAL ADVISORY
BLACK LAGOON is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers.
This volume contains graphic violence, strong language, nudity, adult situations,
drinkin', smokin', ass-kickin', law breakin', gun-love, running with scissors and
just about everything your mother ever told you not to do.
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LAGOON





008

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REI HIROE

BLACK L



Dutch

SKIPPER OF THE OF THE BLACK LAGOON AND LEADER OF THE CREW. DUTCH STAYS COOL NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS GET. HIS BACKGROUND INCLUDES MILITARY SERVICE, INCLUDING A TOUR IN VIETNAM.

Benny

THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE HIGH-TECH ELECTRONICS ONBOARD THE BLACK LAGOON. BENNY ESCAPED FROM THE U.S. AND IS ON THE RUN FROM BOTH THE FBI AND THE MAFIA.

Crew of the Black Lagoon

Revy

THE BLACK LAGOON'S TOP GUNSLINGER, NICKNAMED "TWO HAND." HER FOUL MOUTH AND EXTREMELY SHORT FUSE USUALLY GET HER IN LOTS OF TROUBLE.

Rock

A FORMER JAPANESE SALARYMAN, WHOSE REAL NAME IS ROKURŌ OKAJIMA. ABANDONED BY HIS COMPANY AFTER THE CREW OF THE BLACK LAGOON ABDUCTED HIM, ROCK LATER JOINED HIS CAPTORS.

STORY

ROCK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ROKURŌ OKAJIMA, WAS A FACELESS EMPLOYEE AT A LARGE JAPANESE COMPANY. AFTER BEING ABDUCTED BY THE CREW OF THE *BLACK LAGOON* AND ABANDONED BY HIS COMPANY, HE TAKES ON THE NAME "ROCK" AND FINDS A NEW LIFE IN THE SHADY BUSINESS OF SMUGGLING.

ROBERTA SHOWS UP IN ROANAPUR ONCE AGAIN, THIS TIME WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATING THE U.S. SPECIAL FORCES UNIT THAT MURDERED HER BOSS AND GARCIA'S FATHER, DIEGO LOVELACE.

MEANWHILE CHANG, STILL UNCERTAIN OF THE AMERICANS' INTENTIONS, USES ROCK TO LOCATE ROBERTA TO PREVENT ANY INTRUSION INTO ROANAPUR BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.



Roberta

LOVELACE FAMILY MAID. EX-FARO TERRORIST ONCE FEARED AS "THE BLOODHOUND OF FLORENCIA."



Garcia

NEXT HEAD OF THE LOVELACE FAMILY, ONE OF THE 13 FAMILIES OF SOUTH AMERICA. SON OF DIEGO LOVELACE.



Fabiola

LOVELACE FAMILY MAID. ROBERTA'S SUBORDINATE.



Caxton

LEADER OF THE U.S. UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE SPECIAL FORCES UNIT GREY FOX.

Balalaika

BOSS OF THE THAI BRANCH OF "HOTEL MOSCOW," A NOTED RUSSIAN CRIMINAL GANG. BALALAIIKA ONCE WAS A CAPTAIN IN THE RED ARMY OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.



Chang

BOSS OF THE ROANAPUR BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG TRIAD CRIMINAL GANG.

Eda

A NUN AT THE CHURCH OF VIOLENCE. ACTUALLY A CIA AGENT.



Shenhua

FREELANCE ASSASSIN. CALLED "CHINGLISH GAL" BY REVV.



Sawyer

CLEANER OF DARKNESS. A CHAINSAW IS HER WEAPON OF CHOICE.



Lotton

FREELANCE ASSASSIN. ENJOYS MAKING AN ENTRANCE FROM HIGH PLACES.

Abrego

COLOMBIAN MAFIOSO. SCHEMING TO MURDER ROBERTA.



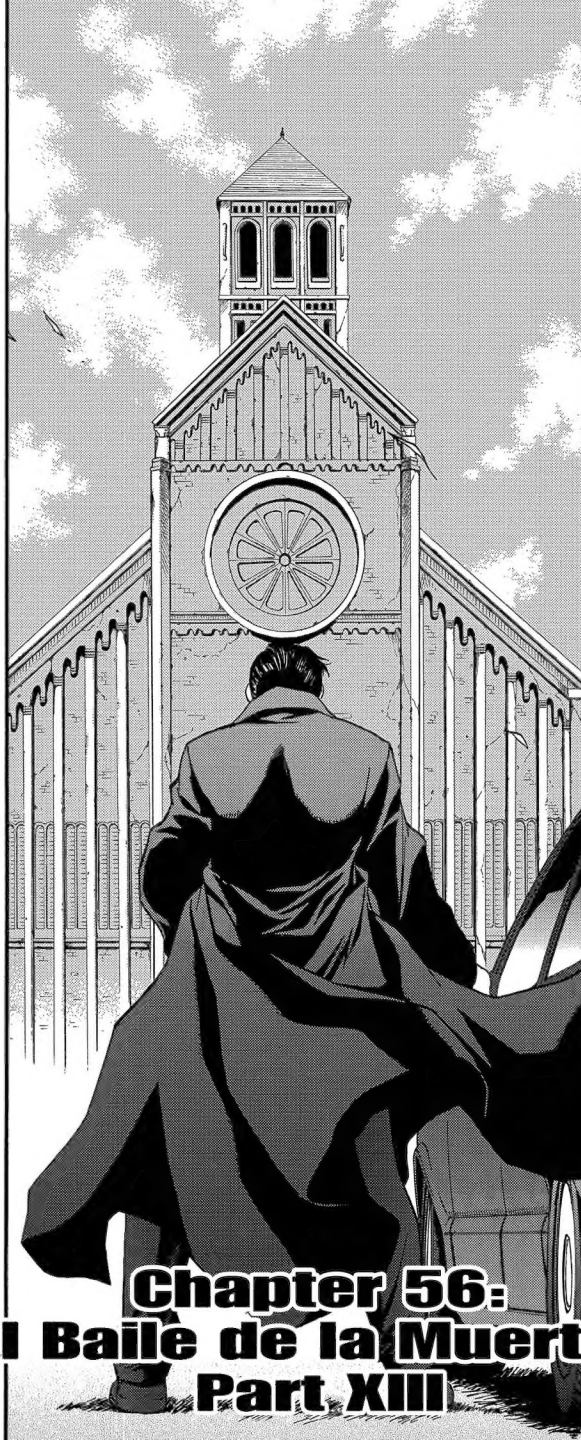
BLACK LAGOON



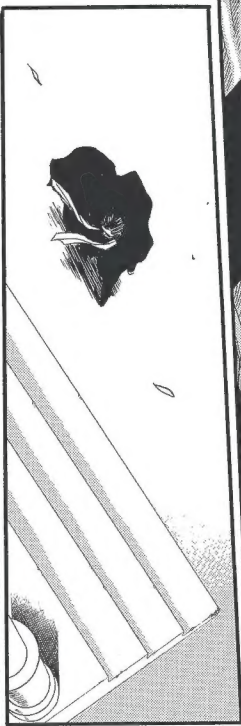
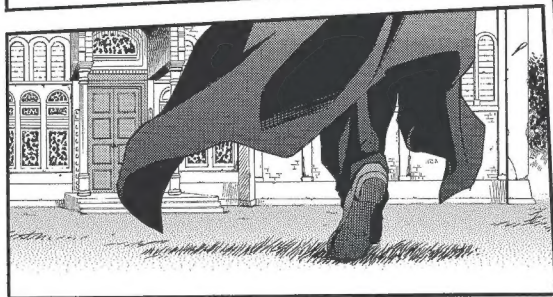
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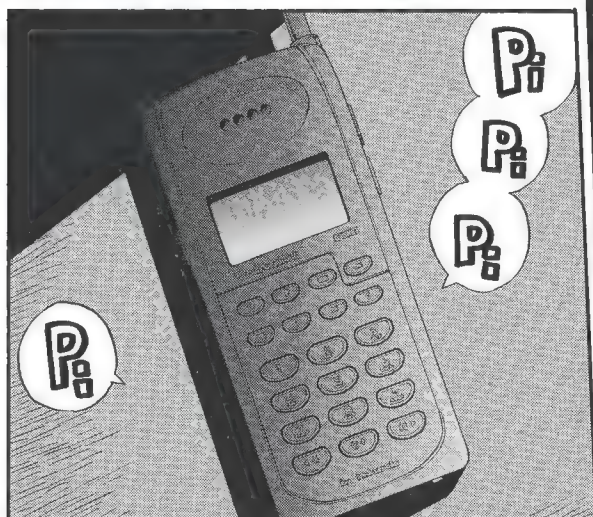
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Part XIII





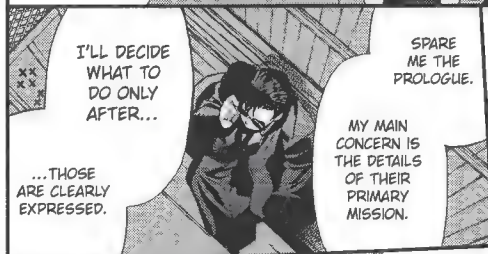


THAT'S ONE
OF MY
VIRTUES.

YOU'RE
RIGHT ON
TIME, AS
USUAL...

LET'S CUT THE
FLATTERY AND
CHIT CHAT AND
GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS.

...PAK
TZE SIN*
CHANG.

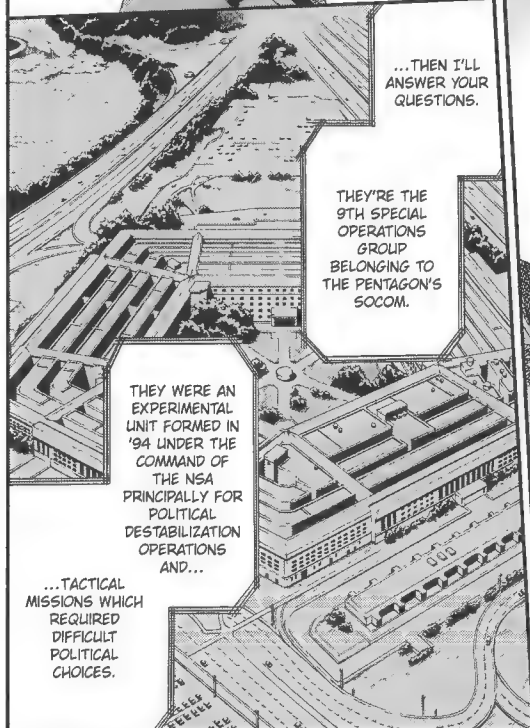


I'LL DECIDE
WHAT TO
DO ONLY
AFTER...

SPARE
ME THE
PROLOGUE.

MY MAIN
CONCERN IS
THE DETAILS
OF THEIR
PRIMARY
MISSION.

...THOSE
ARE CLEARLY
EXPRESSED.



...THEN I'LL
ANSWER YOUR
QUESTIONS.

THEY'RE THE
9TH SPECIAL
OPERATIONS
GROUP
BELONGING TO
THE PENTAGON'S
SOCOM.

THEY WERE AN
EXPERIMENTAL
UNIT FORMED IN
'94 UNDER THE
COMMAND OF
THE NSA
PRINCIPALLY FOR
POLITICAL
DESTABILIZATION
OPERATIONS
AND...

...TACTICAL
MISSIONS WHICH
REQUIRED
DIFFICULT
POLITICAL
CHOICES.



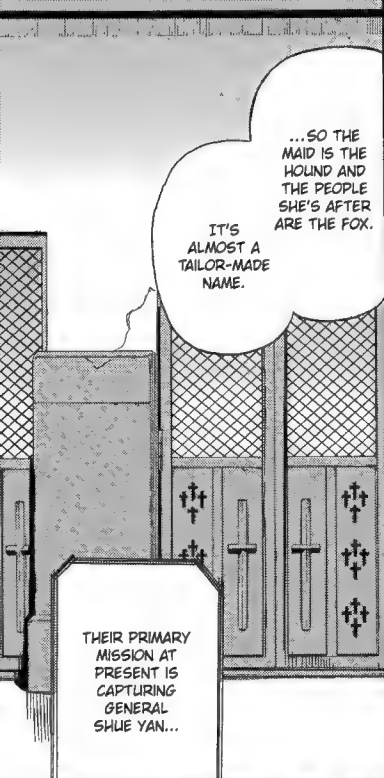
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE NEVER
DO HAVE TIME,
DO WE?

I'LL START
WITH THE
CONCLUSION...

WE ARE
EXTREMELY
DISPLEASED
WITH THE
NSA'S PLANS
IN THIS
REGION.

THEREFORE
WE'RE GOING TO
DISCLOSE ALL THE
INTELLIGENCE WE
HAVE ON THEM AND
GIVE YOU A
GENERAL OUTLINE
OF THEIR
OPERATIONS.

*LITERALLY, "WHITE PAPER FAN," A TRIAD ADVISOR.



IT'S
ALMOST A
TAILOR-MADE
NAME.

...SO THE
MAID IS THE
HOUND AND
THE PEOPLE
SHE'S AFTER
ARE THE FOX.

THEIR PRIMARY
MISSION AT
PRESENT IS
CAPTURING
GENERAL
SHUE YAN...



...THE
GREY FOX
COMMANDO
GROUP.



THE JCS
STAFF
CALLS
THEM...

THEY'RE LISTED
AS THE 56TH
ENGINEERING
BATTALION IN THE
MILITARY'S
HIERARCHY,
BUT...



...THE GENERAL
OF THE TRIAD'S
LARGEST
ARMED FACTION
UNDER KHUIN
SA'S
COMMAND...

...AND TRYING
HIM IN U.S.
FEDERAL
COURT.



IT'D BE A
PAINFUL BLOW
FOR THE
TRIAD.

YOU CAN'T TALK
ABOUT THE
TRIAD'S HEROINE
REFINERIES
WITHOUT
MENTIONING THE
GENERAL'S POPPY
FARMS.

...

SHUE
YAN,
HUH?



...IN THE
MONPARYO
REGION
WITH TWO
COMPANIES
OF TROOPS.

...SHUE YAN
IS SCHEDULED
TO INSPECT
FOUR
VILLAGES...

BUT...



...WHEN
IS THIS
GOING
DOWN?



...WHAT A
SHAME.

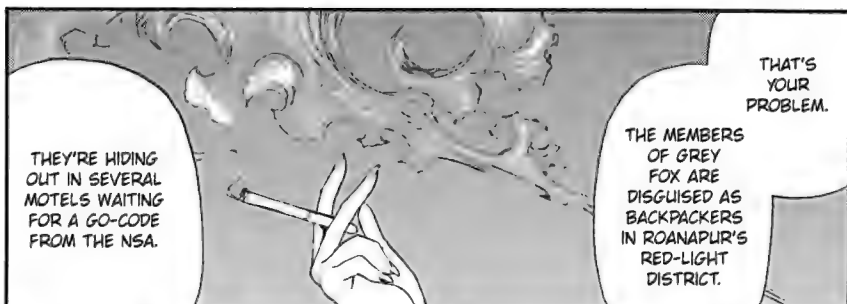
I'LL HAVE
TO SMOKE
OUT OUR
INFORMER.

HIS
LIEUTENANTS
RU DONSHI
AND LAO JENG
WILL BE
ACCOMPANYING
HIM.

IT SHOULD
TAKE PLACE
SOME TIME
LATER THIS
MONTH.

YOU KNOW
SHUE YAN IS
CONSTANTLY
ON THE
MOVE.

THAT
MAKES IT
VERY
DIFFICULT
FOR ANYONE
TRYING TO
CAPTURE
HIM.



THEY'RE HIDING
OUT IN SEVERAL
MOTELS WAITING
FOR A GO-CODE
FROM THE NSA.

THAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM.

THE MEMBERS
OF GREY
FOX ARE
DISGUISED AS
BACKPACKERS
IN ROANAPUR'S
RED-LIGHT
DISTRICT.



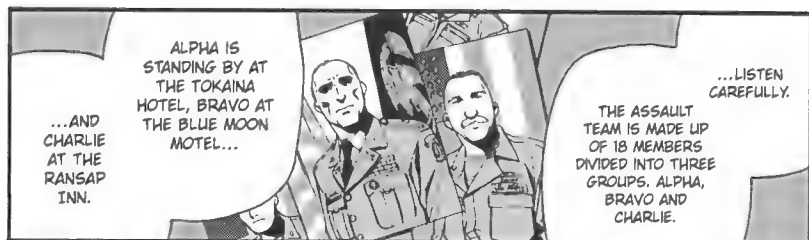
...WHERE
ARE
THESE
MOTELS?

YUP. IN
THE
JUNGLE.

THAT'S THEIR
TERRITORY.
YOUR PEOPLE
WOULDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE
AGAINST
THEM THERE.

...

... IF THAT
DEADLINE
PASSES, THE
NEXT CHANCE
WE'D HAVE TO
INTERCEPT
THEM WOULD
BE...



...AND CHARLIE AT THE RANSAP INN.

ALPHA IS STANDING BY AT THE TOKAINA HOTEL, BRAVO AT THE BLUE MOON MOTEL...

...LISTEN CAREFULLY.

THE ASSAULT TEAM IS MADE UP OF 18 MEMBERS DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS. ALPHA, BRAVO AND CHARLIE.



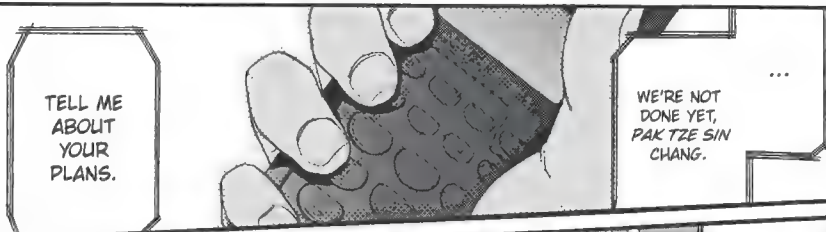
...NO, THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH, MS. CIA.

I'LL CONTACT YOU WHEN THIS IS OVER.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ?

BY THE WAY, THE TEAM LEADER, MAJOR SHANE J. CAXTON...

...IS HIDING OUT WITH HIS LIEUTENANT, CAPTAIN RAYMOND MCDOUGALL AT ALPHA TEAM'S HOTEL.



TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PLANS.

WE'RE NOT DONE YET, PAK TZE SIN CHANG.

...



...

...DID WE EVER HAVE...

...THAT MUCH TRUST BETWEEN US?

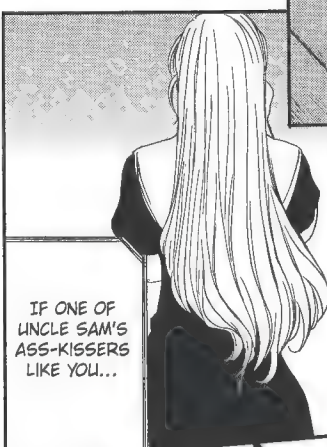


IT'S YOUR OBLIGATION TO CARRY THAT OUT.

A WORD OF ADVICE.

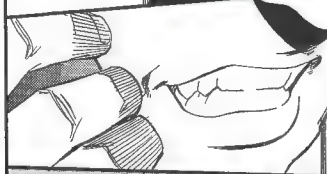
AND DON'T FORGET THAT.

OUR GOAL IN THIS MATTER IS THE FAILURE OF THE NSA'S OPERATION.



IF ONE OF
UNCLE SAM'S
ASS-KISSERS
LIKE YOU...

WE'RE NOT
YOUR DOGS
OR YOUR
APPRENTICES.



...THINKS
SHE CAN
BOSS US
AROUND...

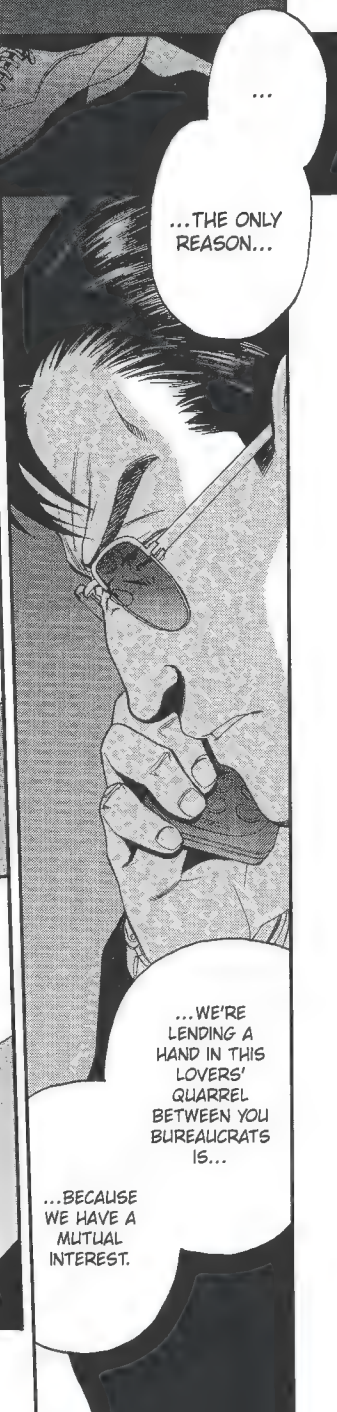


...YOU'RE
DEAD
WRONG.



HAH...

HAH
HAH
HAH.



...
...THE ONLY
REASON...

...WE'RE
LENDING A
HAND IN THIS
LOVERS'
QUARREL
BETWEEN YOU
BUREAUCRATS
IS...

...BECAUSE
WE HAVE A
MUTUAL
INTEREST.

YOU SEEM
TO BE
GROSSLY
MISTAKEN
AS WELL.

MR.
CHANG.

HAH
HAH...
HAH
HAH.



...CALLED
AGENCIES.

THE UNITED
STATES ITSELF IS
LIKE A HYDRA, A
COUNTRY WITH
NUMEROUS
HEADS...



FOR
ONE...

WE ARE
NOT "UNCLE
SAM'S ASS-
KISSERS."

WE
ARE...

...THE
UNITED
STATES.

AND ALL THE
AGENCIES THAT
PROTECT THE
UNITED STATES
EMBRACE THE
EMBLEM OF THE
BALD EAGLE. IN
OTHER WORDS...

BUT WE
POSSESS
THE POWER
TO SUBDUCE
AND
ANNIHILATE
ENTIRE
COUNTRIES.

YOU PEOPLE
MAY POSSESS
THE POWER
TO SUBDUCE
INDIVIDUALS OR
CORPORATIONS
...



THREATS
ARE NOT
EFFECTIVE
AGAINST
POWERS
GREATER
THAN YOURS.

AND ONE
MORE
THING.

AND "THE
SUPREME."

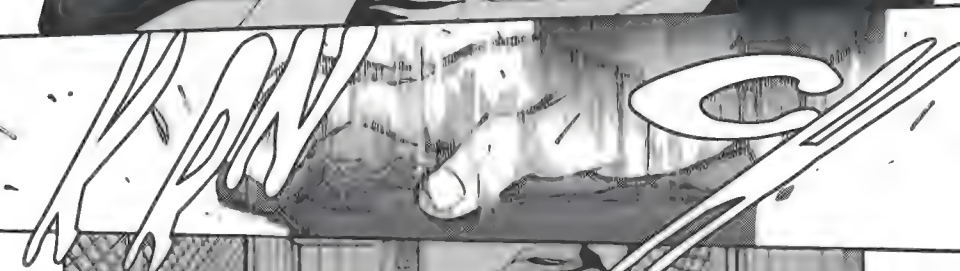
SO DON'T
EVER...



IN THIS
WORLD,
WE ARE...

"THE
ONE"...

"THE
ONLY"...





I
WILL..

JUST DON'T
GET ANYBODY
ELSE HURT,
ALL RIGHT?
PATCHING 'EM
UP IS A PAIN
IN THE ASS.

THANKS,
DOC.

YOU LET US
KNOW IF YOU
NEED TO
TRANSPORT
ANYTHING.



HOW
LONG'S
SHE
BEEN
USING?

BY THE
WAY--

HEY,
KIDDO?



BINGO.

LEROY
WAS
HERE FOR
SURE.



WHAT?!

...WELL...

I KNEW SHE
WAS TAKING
MEDICATION EVEN
WHEN SHE WAS
WORKING AT THE
MANSION, BUT--

HE'S
DEFINITELY
BEEN
IN TOUCH
WITH FOUR
EYES.



BUT...

I HAD NO IDEA
SHE WOULD BE
TAKING SUCH
LARGE
DOSES...

...FORGIVE
ME.

THE HEAD
MATRON HAD ME
KEEP QUIET
ABOUT IT SINCE
YOU WOULD
WORRY, YOUNG
MASTER.



BUT...

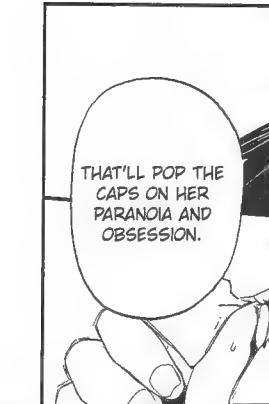
THAT'S THE
BEST WAY TO
COOL OFF
WHEN YOUR
BLOOD'S BOILING.



SHE'S JUST
A STEP
AWAY FROM
DABBING IN
SPEED...

NO.

MAYBE
SHE
ALREADY
IS.



THAT'LL POP THE
CAPS ON HER
PARANOIA AND
OBSESSION.

IF SHE
STARTS
USING
HABIT-
UALLY...

YOU SAW
IT... SHE'LL
TURN INTO A
JEDI KNIGHT
JUST LIKE
TOH CHI.

TCH



WHY...

...HAVEN'T
WE CAUGHT
UP TO HER
YET?!

W...

WHY...?!



WE DON'T
HAVE TIME!



...FOR
MUCH
LONGER!

SHE WON'T
BE ABLE TO
CONTROL
HERSELF...

YOUNG
MASTER!



YOUNG
MASTER,
PLEASE CALM
DOWN-

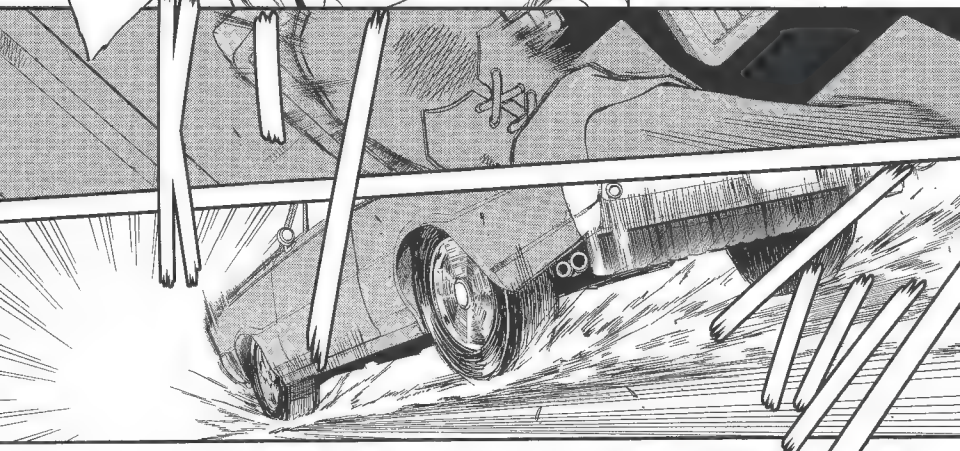


YOU'RE NOT
HER FAMILY!

THAT'S
WHY!!



IT'S
ALL
BECAUSE
...



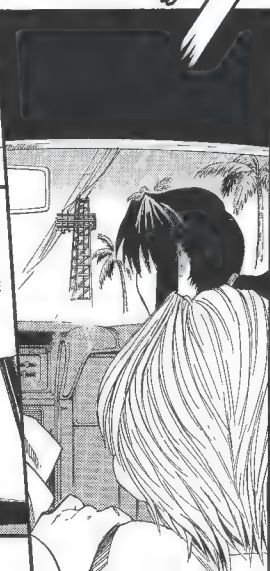
WE'VE
GOTTEN
CLOSER TO...

IN
JUST
ONE
DAY...

...YOU'RE THE
CENTER OF ALL
THIS, BUT ALL
YOU'RE DOING IS
SCREAMING AND
CRYING AS SHE
DROWNS NEXT
TO YOU.

WE'VE
ALMOST GOT
EVERYTHING
WE NEED
TO END
THIS THING
PEACEFULLY.

...GRABBING
HER BY THE
SCRUFF OF
HER NECK
THAN ANYONE
ELSE.



...
...I
CAN'T...

YOU CAN'T
AFFORD
TO MESS
THIS UP.

DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND?

REVV AND I
CAN'T CATCH
HER.

...AFFORD
TO MESS
THIS UP...

ONLY
YOU CAN.

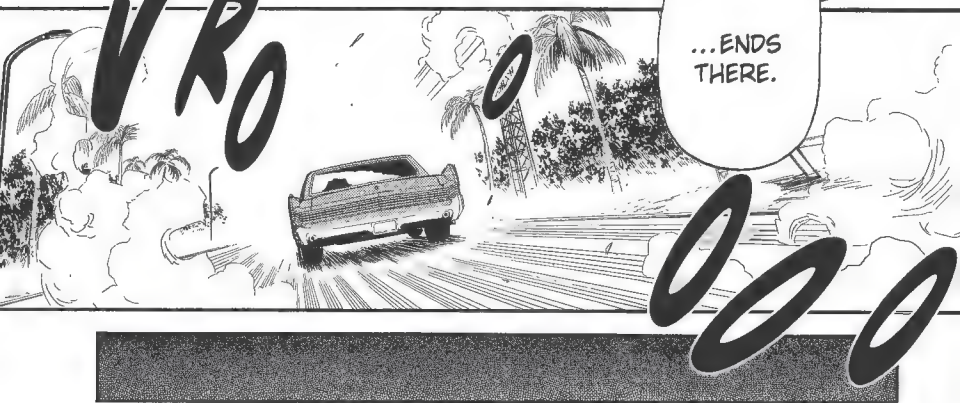
ROCK.

PARKANA
SQUARE.
LEROY'S
OFFICE IS
THERE.

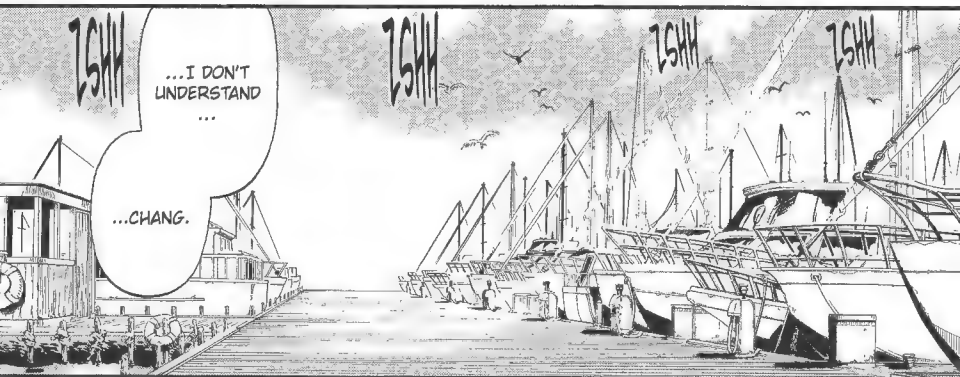
THAT'S
THE LAST
STOP.



OUR
LITTLE
TOUR...



...ENDS
THERE.



...I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
...

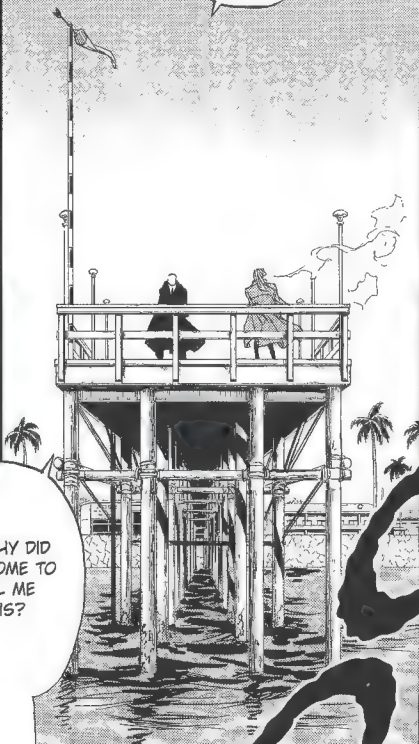
...CHANG.

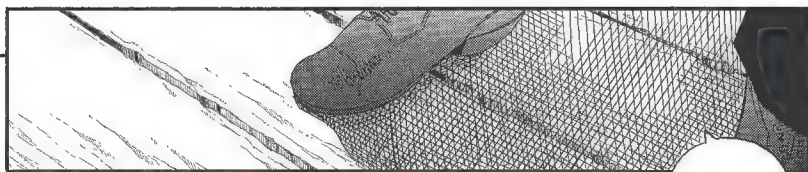
OUR
INVOLVEMENT
...

...SHOULDN'T
BE SOMETHING
YOU WISH FOR.

SO WHY DID
YOU COME TO
TELL ME
THIS?

WHAT'S
YOUR
REAL
MOTIVE?





THEN SHE'LL
TRY TO...

...SETTLE
HER SCORES
RIGHT HERE.

...THE MAID
WILL CATCH
UP...

...WITH
GREY FOX
SOMETIME
TONIGHT.



S H
A

THAT WILL
RESULT
IN...

...A CRITICAL
BLOW TO
THIS TOWN.



THERE'S ONLY
ONE PATH FOR
US TO TAKE.

BEFORE
ROANAPUR
FALLS LIKE A
HOUSE OF
CARDS...



...AFTER
THAT...

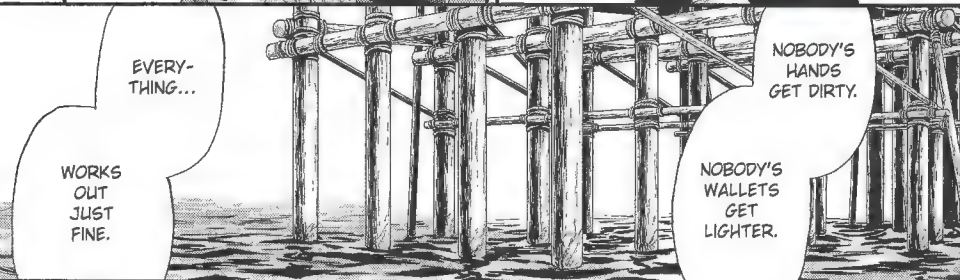
WE LEAVE THE
MAID TO TAKE
CARE OF THE
PARTY...

SHE GETS
REVENGE
FOR HER
BOSS.



WE'VE GOT
TO PREVENT
THAT
CONFLICT...

AND GET THE
AMERICANS
OUT OF HERE
ALIVE.



EVERY-
THING...

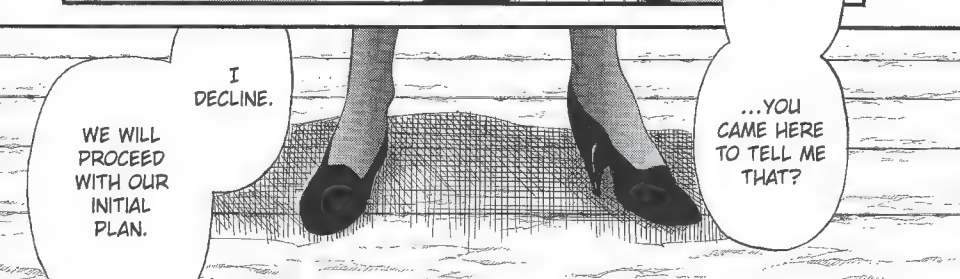
WORKS
OUT
JUST
FINE.

NOBODY'S
HANDS
GET DIRTY.

NOBODY'S
WALLETS
GET
LIGHTER.



...



I
DECLINE.

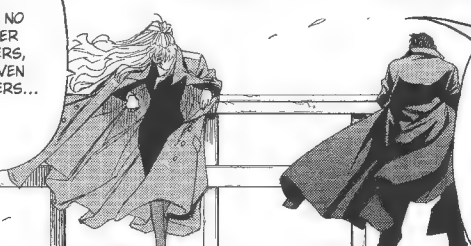
WE WILL
PROCEED
WITH OUR
INITIAL
PLAN.

...YOU
CAME HERE
TO TELL ME
THAT?



...SO
THAT'S
HOW YOU
WANT TO
DO IT?

YOU WANT
TO DIE AS A
SOLDIER?



WE'RE NO
LONGER
SOLDIERS,
NOT EVEN
DESERTERS...

WE'RE
EX-MILITARY.
WE DON'T
BELONG TO
ANYTHING,
THE SAME
AS YOU.

...CHANG.

A DIE-HARD
MOBSTER LIKE
YOU WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND.



WHEN
THE NEW
RUSSIA
BETRAYED
US...

WHEN
WE LOST
EVERYTHING,
WHAT WERE
WE LEFT
WITH?

BUT...

WHEN THE
SOVIET
UNION
ABANDONED
US...



WE'RE
VESTIGES OF A
KIND OF PRIDE
THAT'S BECOME
AN OLD, MOLDY
TOMBSTONE.

WE TASTED LIFE
AND DEATH AND
EVERYTHING
THERE IS TO
KNOW ABOUT
FIGHTING FOR
A FLAG.

THAT
PRIDE...





HOLD
ON...

FRY
FACE.

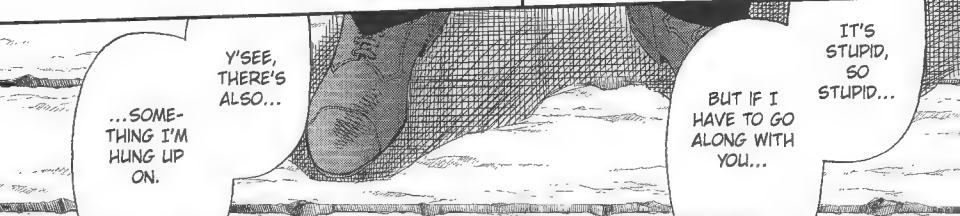


...
YOU CAN
INTERPRET
THAT
HOWEVER
YOU LIKE.

TAK

WE'RE
DONE
HERE.

...IF
YOU'LL
EXCUSE
ME.

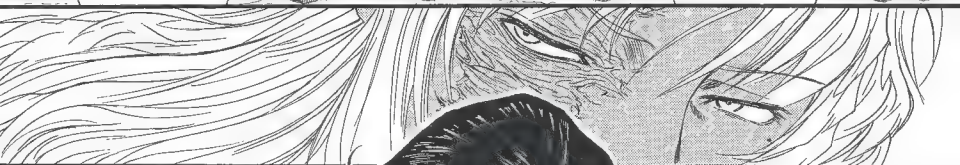


...SOME-
THING I'M
HUNG UP
ON.

Y'SEE,
THERE'S
ALSO...

BUT IF I
HAVE TO GO
ALONG WITH
YOU...

IT'S
STUPID,
SO
STUPID...



NOVEMBER
'93.

YOU OWE ME
FOR THAT.

I TOOK FOUR
9MM ROUNDS
RIGHT HERE AT
THIS HARBOR.





...SAME
HERE.

I TOOK
THREE .22 LR
ROUNDS.

IT WAS A
BEAUTIFUL
SILVER
MOONLIT
NIGHT.

THE NUMBER
THAT NIGHT
WAS...



"IT'S A BLUE
WORLD."



IT WAS
THE PERFECT
EVENING
BANQUET FOR
A BULLET
BALLET.



ONE OF
US WAS
SUPPOSED TO
KISS THE DIRT
AND SAY
GOODBYE TO
THIS WORLD
THAT NIGHT.

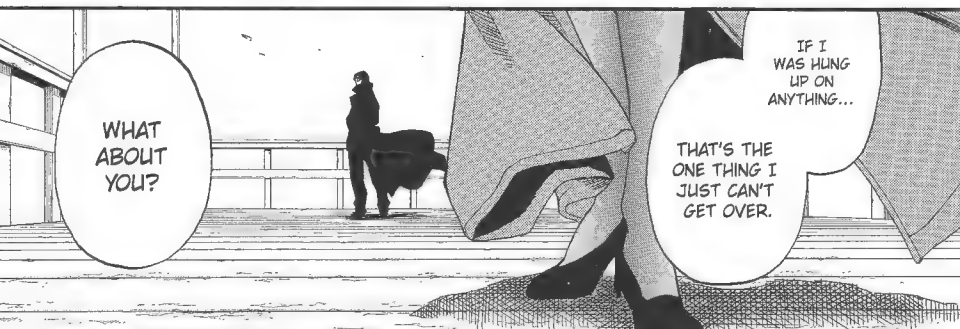


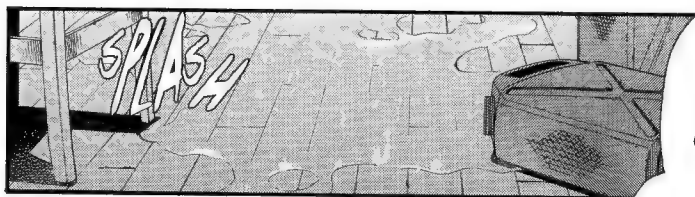
BUT...



WE'RE BOTH
STILL HERE.







WHICH
ENDING
WILL YOU
CHOOSE?

YOU CAN'T
CHOOSE
BOTH.

YOU ONLY
HAVE ONE
LIFE.

Chapter 57: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XIV

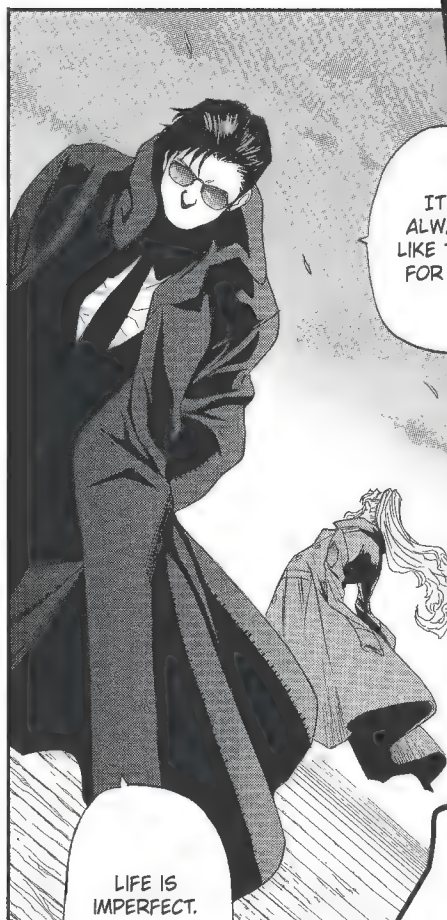
LOOKS LIKE
THERE'S
NO TIME...

...TO
THINK IT
OVER, IS
THERE?

KNG

KTNK

TNK



IT'S
ALWAYS
LIKE THAT
FOR US.

LIFE IS
IMPERFECT.

IMPORTANT
MATTERS
ALWAYS
RUN AHEAD
OF US.



...YES,
IT'S ME.

JEFF
PASTURIA,
WE'VE
CONFIRMED
THE INFO WE
RECEIVED.



I GOT ALL
THE TROOPS
FROM BACK
HOME HERE
NOW.



BOSS.

IT'S
EL JEFFE.





THE FARC'S
SENT SOME OF
THEIR ELITE
SUMASAS
BRIGADE. THEIR
LEADER ALBERTO
CAMARASA IS
AN ADVISOR...

...AND A
MEMBER OF
CUBA'S NAVAL
SPECIAL
FORCES.

THEY'RE
TIRED OF
WAKING UP IN
COLD SWEAT
BECAUSE OF
THAT GUY...

AND
THEY'RE
ITCHING TO
FINISH IT
OFF THEM-
SELVES.



...OF
COURSE,
OF COURSE,
BUT JEFEE...

CAN
THESE
GUYS...

...BE
TRUSTED?



I'M BEING
FORCED TO
WALK A
TIGHTROPE.

PUT
YOURSELF
IN MY
POSITION.

WHAT
?!



IF THIS TURNS
INTO A MELEE, WE
GOTTA CONSIDER
THE POSSIBILITY
OF THEM TAKING
MATTERS INTO
THEIR OWN HANDS.

IF THERE'S
ANY CHANCE
OF THAT
HAPPENING...

AND THAT
WOULD BE THE
END OF MY
VISION FOR AN
IDEAL BUSINESS
HERE.



...
LISTEN,
ABREGO.

YOU CAN'T
LET THOSE
GUYS KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
AMERICANS.



THAT'S
YOUR REAL
JOB.

MAKE
SURE YOU
SEE TO IT...

...THAT
THERE ARE
NO LOOSE
ENDS.



I'LL TRY
NOT TO LET
YOU DOWN...

...



JEFE.

KA



YO!



YOU CALLED
THE OFFICE
THE OTHER
DAY, DIDN'T
YA? SO HERE
I AM...

HOW'S IT
GOING,
LEROY?

THIS
PLACE IS A
SHITHOLE.
HIRE A MAID
ALREADY.



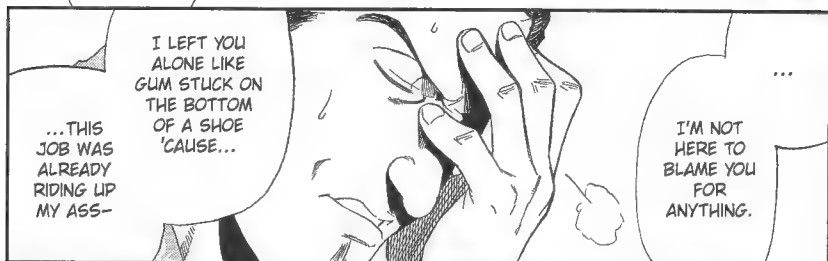
YOU'VE
BEEN
TAILING ME
FOR A
WHILE NOW,
HAVEN'T
YOU?

SOMETHIN'
STINKS,
REVY.

YOU WANNA
KNOW WHAT
I'VE BEEN
DOING.

RIGHT?

MY HEALTH
AND MY
HOUSE-
KEEPING
SKILLS AIN'T
NONE OF
YOUR
BUSINESS.



I LEFT YOU
ALONE LIKE
GUM STUCK ON
THE BOTTOM
OF A SHOE
'CAUSE...

...THIS
JOB WAS
ALREADY
RIDING UP
MY ASS--

I'M NOT
HERE TO
BLAME YOU
FOR
ANYTHING.



HEY.

HOLD ON
THERE, LEROY.
EVERYTHING
YOU'VE SAID
SO FAR'S BEEN
RIGHT. BUT...

SO, WHAT DO
YOU WANNA
ASK ME? WHAT
DO YOU WANNA
KNOW? HMM?

NOT FOR
MUCH
LONGER.

YOU WANNA
KNOW ABOUT
THAT CRAZY
VENEZUELAN,
RIGHT? THE
BLOODHOUND
OF DEATH?

RIGHT?

TELLING YOU
IS LIKE
COMMITTING
HARI-KARI,
GODDAMMIT.

WHY THE
SUDDEN
CHANGE IN
ATTITUDE?



WHY?!
BECAUSE OF
THAT CRAZY
BITCH! THAT'S
WHY!!

LISTEN, REVV,
THAT BITCH...

...BAILED
BEFORE SHE
PAID ME HALF
OF WHAT SHE
PROMISED!!



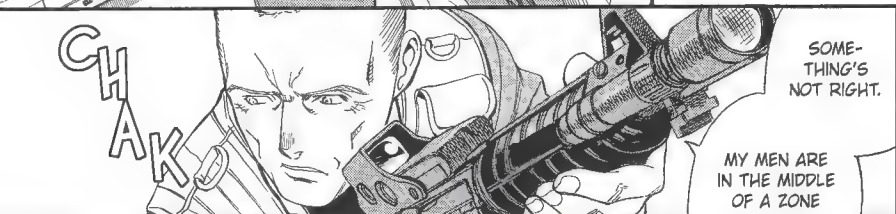
MUST
BE BAD
NEWS...

KNOCK KNOCK

WHAT IS
IT, WILL?

CAXTON!

IT'S
WILL!



SOME-
THING'S
NOT RIGHT.

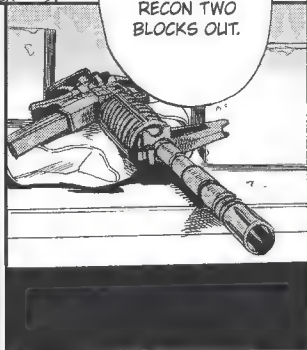
MY MEN ARE
IN THE MIDDLE
OF A ZONE
RECON TWO
BLOCKS OUT.



...YOU'RE
RIGHT.

I DON'T
KNOW WHO,
BUT SOME-
BODY'S...

...TRYING TO
SABOTAGE
OUR PLANS.





THEY'RE
OBVIOUSLY
ON TOP OF
OUR INFO.

THAT'S WHY I
CAME HERE IN
PERSON...

...FULLY
AWARE OF
THE RISKS,
TO GIVE
YOU THIS.



I DON'T
KNOW.

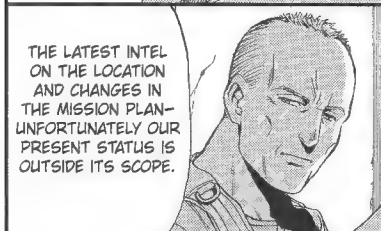
BUT WE'VE GOT
STATIC ON OUR
PHONES, WHICH
MEANS THEY'RE
TAPPED...

...AND SIGNS
OUR DROP
POINT'S BEEN
COMPROMISED.

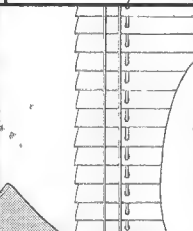


PERHAPS
THE...

...DRUG
TRAFFICKERS
HAVE TAKEN
THE
INITIATIVE?



THE LATEST INTEL
ON THE LOCATION
AND CHANGES IN
THE MISSION PLAN—
UNFORTUNATELY OUR
PRESENT STATUS IS
OUTSIDE ITS SCOPE.



IT'S FROM
DISNEYLAND
EAST-BRIGADIER
GENERAL WILDER.

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY ORDER
115, OPERATION
CHINA PIT, WILL
CONTINUE AS
PLANNED.



K-K-LNK

COME
IN!



SERGEANT
MAJOR
YOUNGBLOOD
AND STAFF
SERGEANT
BURROUGHS
...

RECON
COMPLETE,
SIR!

WHAT'S
THE
SITUATION?



TMP
TMP



IN ADDITION,
FOR THE FIRST
TIME SINCE
WE'VE BEEN
HERE, THE
ROADSIDE
STANDS HAVE
DISAPPEARED.

RESIDENTS OF
TOWNS LIKE
THESE KNOW
WHEN DANGER'S
IN THE AIR.



CHARKWAN
STREET AND
THE STREETS
LEADING TO
MANTAI STREET
HAVE BEEN
BLOCKED.

BUT THERE
WERE NO SIGNS
OF ACTUAL
CONSTRUCTION.



THE
CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS ALL
HAD BULGES
UNDER THEIR
LEFT ARMS.



CONTACT SAFE
HOUSES MALIBU
AND MONTANA.
USE THE PRC*.

WE'RE
UNDOUBTEDLY
SURROUNDED.
THE UNKNOWN'S
ARE WAITING
TO SEE HOW
WE MOVE.

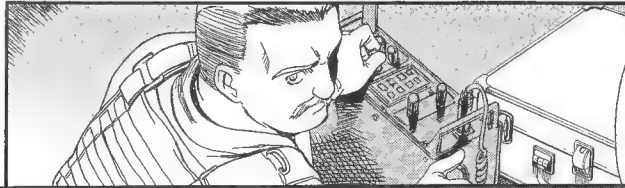


WE
SPOTTED
NINE
LOOKOUTS
AND FOUR
TAILS INSIDE
A 200-YARD
RADIUS.

I THOUGHT
I FELT A
PRESENCE
OF SOMEONE
IN A SNIPING
POSITION.

THIS IS
JUST A
HUNCH,
SIR,
BUT...

*A PORTABLE MILITARY RADIO



ROGER
THAT.

SEND
THEM THE
EMERGENCY
RALLY CODE?



WE'LL FLANK
THEM WHEN
THEIR MAIN
UNIT MAKES
ITS MOVE AND
TAKE THEM
OUT.

NO.

THEY MIGHT
RUN A SWEEP,
SO TELL
THEM TO BE
ON STANDBY
ON AN OPEN
CHANNEL.



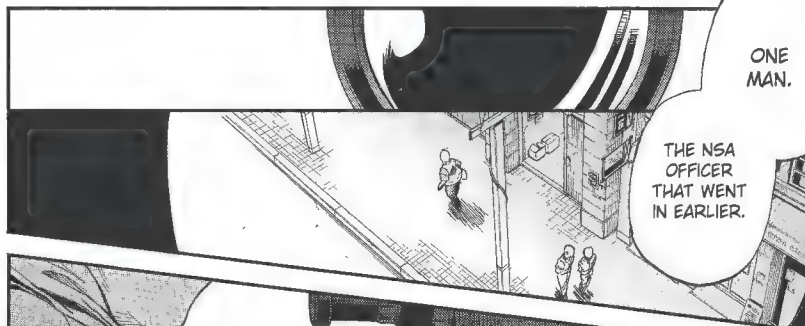
WILL.



IT'LL
PROBABLY
...

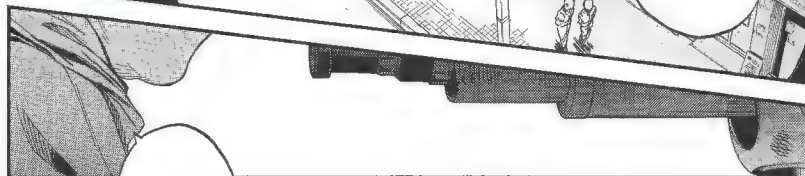
...BEGIN
SOON.

YOU BETTER
GET OUTTA
HERE BEFORE
THE BULLETS
START FLYING.



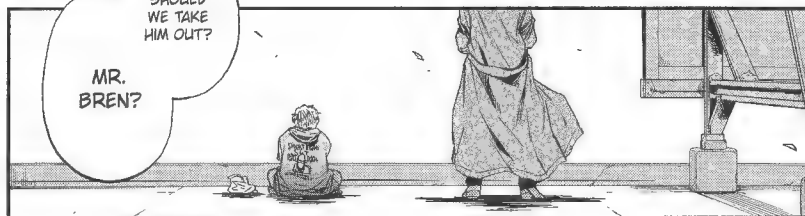
ONE
MAN.

THE NSA
OFFICER
THAT WENT
IN EARLIER.



SHOULD
WE TAKE
HIM OUT?

MR.
BREN?





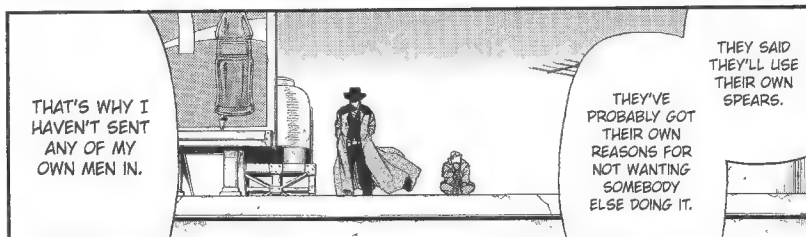
YEAH.

OUR CLIENT
WANTS US
TO BE A
SHIELD.

BUT WHAT
A STRANGE
REQUEST.

LET
HIM GO.

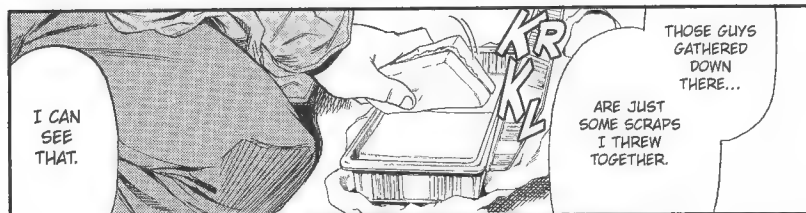
HE'S NOT
PART
OF THE
PACKAGE.



THAT'S WHY I
HAVEN'T SENT
ANY OF MY
OWN MEN IN.

THEY'VE
PROBABLY GOT
THEIR OWN
REASONS FOR
NOT WANTING
SOMEBODY
ELSE DOING IT.

THEY SAID
THEY'LL USE
THEIR OWN
SPEARS.



I CAN
SEE
THAT.

ARE JUST
SOME SCRAPS
I THREW
TOGETHER.

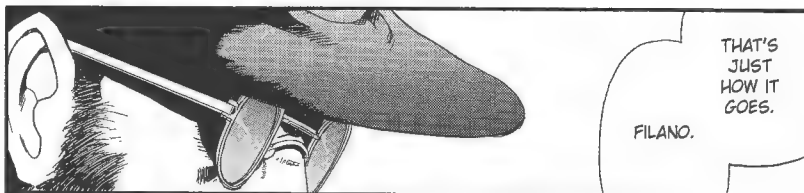
THOSE GUYS
GATHERED
DOWN
THERE...



THE WHOLE
ENTRY TEAM IS
GONNA GET
WASTED.

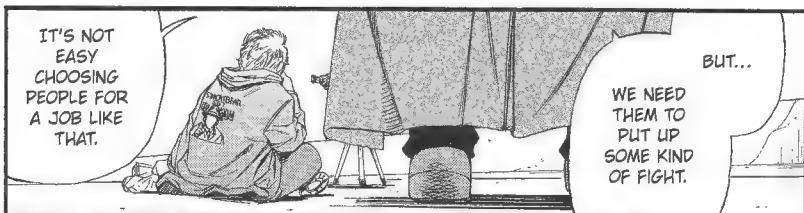
BUT FROM WHAT
I GATHERED,
THEY'RE ABOUT
THE EQUIVALENT
OF DELTA OR
MIKE FORCE.

I COULDN'T
GET ANY
INTEL ON THE
TARGET OR
ANY DETAILS.



THAT'S
JUST
HOW IT
GOES.

FILANO.



IT'S NOT
EASY
CHOOSING
PEOPLE FOR
A JOB LIKE
THAT.

BUT...

WE NEED
THEM TO
PUT UP
SOME KIND
OF FIGHT.



AND THAT'S
WHY THEY'LL
END UP DYING
IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS.

THEY'LL
REALIZE THAT
TOO LATE.

THAT'S WHY WE'VE
THOROUGHLY
PLANNED OUT
EVERYTHING
LEADING UP TO
THEM GOING IN.
IT'S JUST THAT...

...WE DIDN'T
CONSIDER
THEM
GETTING
OUT.

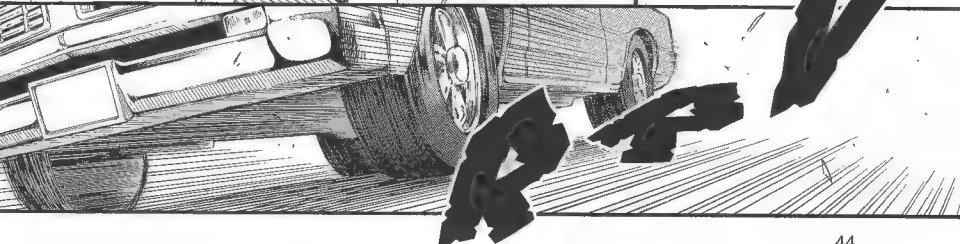
AN
UNDENIABLE
ARGUMENT.
BEAUTIFUL.

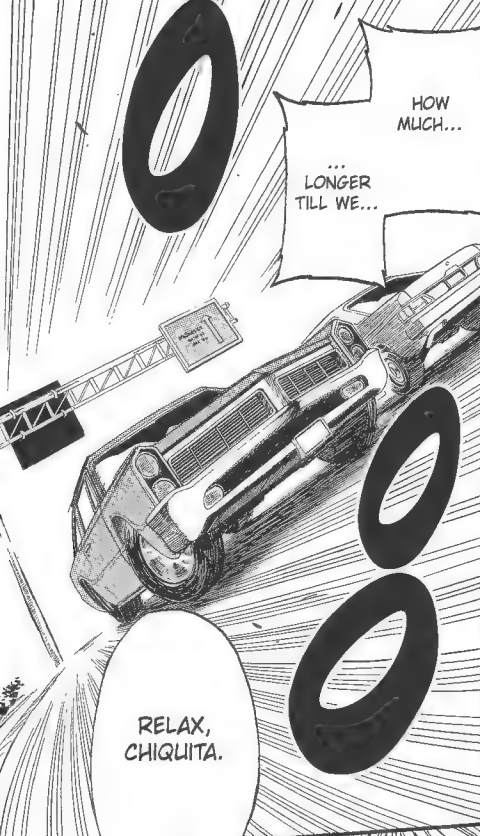


THEY'RE
SHOWING
SPEED RACER
ON CHANNEL 27.
WANNA WATCH?

THERE'S
STILL TIME
BEFORE IT
GOES DOWN.

I BROUGHT
A PORTABLE
TV.





HOW MUCH...

... LONGER TILL WE...

YEAH.

THE TOKAINA HOTEL IS HER LAST STOP.

RELAX, CHIKUITA.

THE FLOPHOUSE ON CHARKWAN STREET?

SO THAT'S WHERE SHE'LL BE?

"BREN THE BLACK DEATH" IS INVOLVED.

WE GOTTA DEAL WITH ANOTHER PROBLEM.

JUST HOLD TIGHT FOR A BIT LONGER IF YOU WANNA BE CALLED AN HOMBRE.

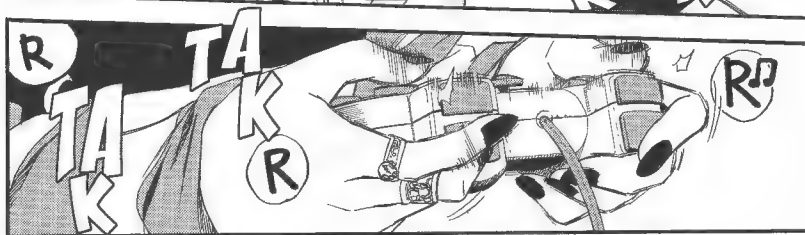
THEY GOT AN OFFICE, BUT THEY'VE GOT TOO MANY OVERLAPPING INTERESTS, SO THEY DON'T USUALLY DO JOBS IN THIS TOWN.

ACCORDING TO LEROY, SOME OF HIS MEN ARE PROVIDING SO-CALLED SUPPORT FOR FOUR EYES... STOP OVER THERE.

NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

OF COURSE NOT.

HE RARELY COMES OUT INTO THE OPEN. HE RUNS A MURDER-FOR-HIRE OUTFIT.





AI AI AI!
COMING!

PHONE BEEN
RINGING
LONG TIME.

I SEE WHY
SAWYER NO
ANSWER, BUT
YOU SHOULD,
LONDON.



AIYA!

喂，邊位
HELLO, WHO
IS IT?



IF YOU'RE
LOOKIN' FOR
WORK, I GOT
A WHOLE
BUNCH OF
PEOPLE FOR
YOU TO KILL.

YO,
SHENHUA!

STILL
ALIVE, EH?
GOOD FOR
YOU!



I IN HOSPITAL
BED UNTIL
TWO WEEKS
AGO.

BUT IF JOB IS
TO CUT YOU
UP, I DO FOR
FREE.

I GOT IT FROM
CHANG, WHAT DO
YOU CARE? I GOT
A LOT GOING ON.

HOW YOU
KNOW
THIS
NUMBER?



...I NO
GOOD AT
ARGUING.

YOU
HIRING?
OR YOUR
BOSS?

NEITHER.
A RICH
SOUTH
AMERICAN.

K L A K
K L A K

YOU TALK
A LOT,
BITCH.

DON'T
TELL
ME YOU
FORGOT
YOU
SKEWERED
ME?

K L A K

K L A K



IT WASN'T ME
WHO SHOT
YOU. IT WAS
THE NUN.

YOU WANT
PAYBACK, YOU
GO AFTER HER.
DON'T BE
LAYING THAT
SHIT ON ME.

...BESIDES...



HEY!

HOW
MUCH?

THEY BIT!
HOW MUCH
YOU
WILLING
TO PAY

DON'T WORRY,
I WOULDN'T
EXPECT YOU
TO HAVE THE
BALLS FOR
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

I NO DO
ANYTHING
AGAINST
GREAT
BROTHER
CHANG.



W A F

TAP TAP TAP

GAKK!

I'LL
LEAVE IT
UP-



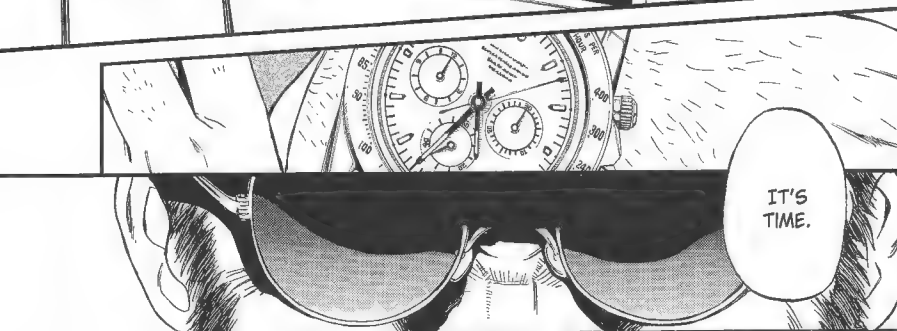
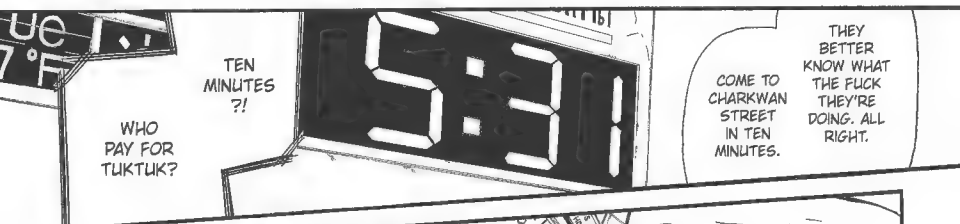
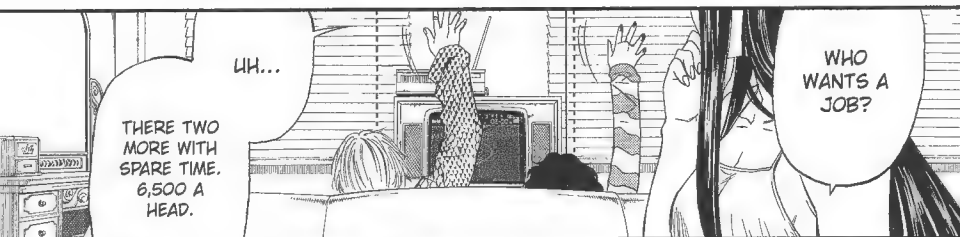
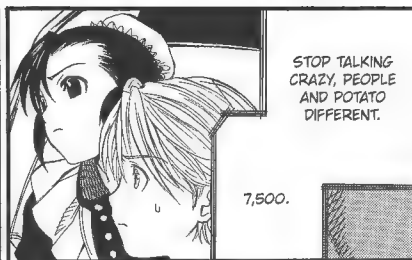
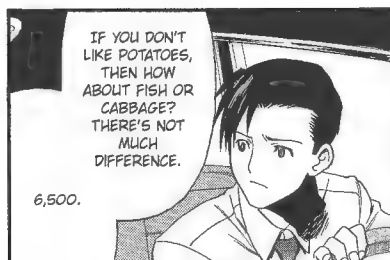
WHO ELSE'LL
PAY YOU SIX
LARGE FOR
CUTTING
POTATOES?

FUCK YOU. I
KNOW YOU'RE
NOT FULLY
HEALED YET.

ALL YOU
GOTTA DO IT
IS SLICE UP A
FEW DUDES.

GO
ELSEWHERE,
DUMMY.

SIX
THOUSAND
DOLLARS.





OUR
TARGET IS
ROSARITA
TISNEROS.

SHE'S A
CONVERTED
REACTIONARY,
EX-ADVISOR TO
COMMANDER
MARULANDA.



DO NOT
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
HER JUST
BECAUSE
SHE'S A
WOMAN.

SHE WAS ONCE
KNOWN AS THE
"BLOODHOUND OF
FLORENCIA"...



...AND SHE
CAN PULL
THEM OFF FAR
BETTER THAN
ANY OF YOU.

SHE KNOWS
EVERY TRICK
IN THE BOOK...

SHE WAS EYED
AS THE NEXT
CARLOS THE
JACKAL IN OUR
REPUBLIC. SHE'S
THE REAL THING.



SHE'S A
CARNIVORA IN
HUMAN SKIN.

DON'T
FORGET
THAT.



THERE'S
STILL TIME
TO PULL
BACK.

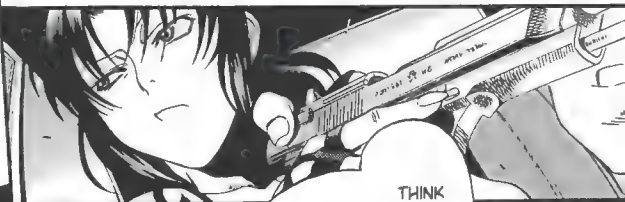
IF YOU TAKE
THIS STEP...

THE ROBERTA
YOUR GARCIA
LOVED SO MUCH
CAN NEVER
RETURN TO THE
LOVELACE
FAMILY.

YOU'LL BE
JUST A
BLOOD-CRAZED
MAD DOG,
HAUNTED BY
DELUSION.

YOUR MASTER
AND THE YOUNG
MASTER GRIEVED
OVER YOUR LIFE,
AND WISHED
ONLY HAPPINESS
FOR YOU.





SINS CAN
ONLY BE
ATONED
FOR WITH
BLOOD!



THERE IS NO
OTHER WAY!
THAT'S
WHY...

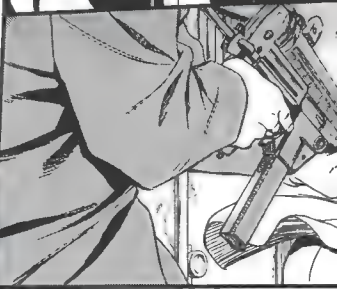


THINK
BACK.

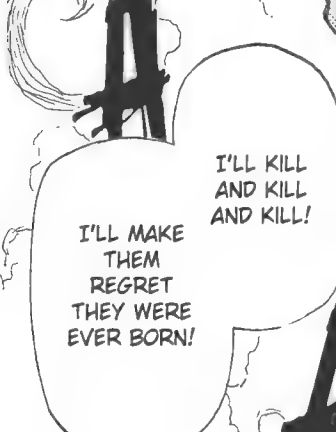
YOUR DEAD
MASTER FEARED
YOU WOULD BE
TRAPPED IN A
PURGATORY OF
BLOODSHED AS
MUCH AS HE
WORRIED ABOUT
HIS CHILD'S
SAFETY.



NO ONE
REQUIRES
REVENGE
FROM YOU.



YET
YOU—



I'LL KILL
AND KILL
AND KILL!

I'LL MAKE
THEM
REGRET
THEY WERE
EVER BORN!

SCHEDULED
REPORT,
SITUATION D4.
WE'VE GOT A
GROUP OF
PROBABLE
HOSTILES
INBOUND.

240

MAJOR
CAXTON!

TEAMS B
AND C ARE
READY TO GO.
SITUATION
BLUE!

IT'S
FINALLY
BEGIN...

GENTLEMEN.

ALL TEAMS
IN POSITION.
SITUATION
BLUE!

I KNOW THAT
BETTER THAN
ANYONE AND
I'M VERY
PROUD OF IT.

YOUR ABILITIES,
SKILLS, AND
QUALIFICATIONS
ARE ALL THE
BEST.

BUT THAT'S
OVER NOW.

I'M SURE YOU MEN
ARE ALL RESTLESS
AFTER SUCH LONG
PATROL ASSIGNMENTS
AND THIS STANDBY
PERIOD.

LET'S SHOW
THEM HOW
THE BEST
SOLDIERS
FIGHT!

TAKE THE FIGHT
TO THE ENEMY,
PROTECT YOUR
MEN, AND BE
PROUD OF THE
JUSTICE YOU
FIGHT FOR.

IT'S TIME
TO GO TO
WORK,
GENTLEMEN.

...IT'S
DARK IN
HERE.

SHUT UP,
MIKEY.

I CAN'T SEE
MY FEET. I'M
TRIPPIN' ALL
OVER THE
PLACE.

SOMEBODY
GOT A
LIGHT?
TURN IT-

YOU
FUCKING
CRAZY?
YOU WANNA
DIE?

THEY'RE
UPSTAIRS.
BE CAREFUL.

AK

Chapter 58: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XV

IS LEROY'S
INFO SOLID?

LEROY'S
INFO'S
ALWAYS
SOLID. HE'S
NEVER
WRONG.

THESE GUYS
ARE RENEGADE
GANGSTERS
FROM THE
COUNTRYSIDE?



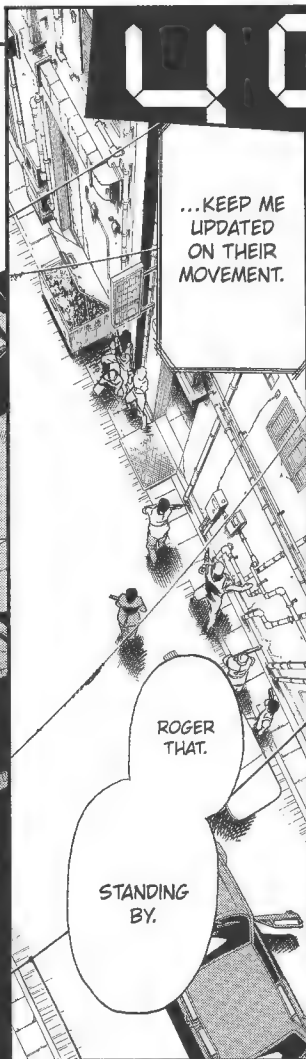
ARMED
MEN ARE
ENTERING
THE
STRUCTURE.

FORCE
UNKNOWN.
REQUESTING
ORDERS,
OVER!



WE CAN'T
LOSE HER BY
GETTING
INVOLVED
IN ANY
UNNECESSARY
SKIRMISHES.

AND IF
THOSE GUYS
ARE AFTER
ROSARITA
LIKE WE
ARE...



...KEEP ME
UPDATED
ON THEIR
MOVEMENT.

ROGER
THAT.

STANDING
BY.



IS
ROSARITA
IN SIGHT?
OVER.

NO SIGN
OF HER
YET.

SHOULD
WE TAKE
THEM
OUT?
OVER.



...IS IT
HERE?

YEAH,
THIS
IS IT.



WO



TWO.

ONE...



GO IN
WHEN I
TOSS THIS.
COUNTING.

THREE.

KLINK



WE'LL
TAKE ONLY
HER HEAD.

OUR TARGET
IS ROSARITA
TISNEROS.







MR.
BREN!

WELL, WELL,
THEY'VE
TURNED THE
SITUATION
AROUND!

THIS WAS
UNEXPECTED,
MR. BREN.

THEY'RE...



THE
PROBLEM
IS...

HOW THEY FIND
THEMSELVES
ANOTHER WAY
OUT.

...BLOWING
OUT THE
WALLS OF THE
ADJACENT
ROOMS TO
CREATE AN
EXIT.

IT'S A
GAMBLE TO
FIGHT A FORCE
OF UNKNOWN
NUMBER AND
FIREPOWER
HEAD-ON.

TIP

TIP

TIP

KEEP
MOVING!
UPSTAIRS!

KOFF KOFF

SHIT!
WHAT
HAPPENED
?!

HEY?!

UP!
UP!

UP

UP



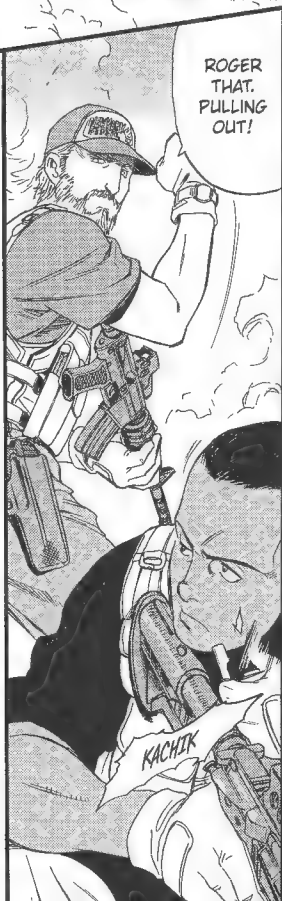
ROGER
THAT.
PULLING
OUT!

CHW
SECOND
GROUP
OF
ATTACKERS
CLEARED.



GOOD
JOB.

SEAL THE
CORRIDOR
AND LINK
UP IN
THIRTY
SECONDS.

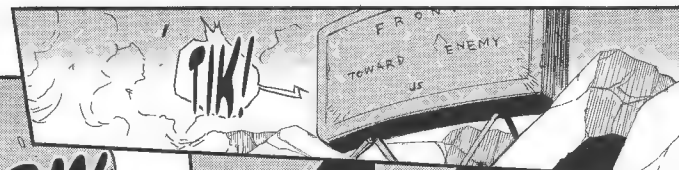




SHIT!!

RENEGADE
GANGSTERS
FROM OUT
OF TOWN?!

THOSE WERE
RAPTORS
CRAMMED INTO
A HEN HOUSE!



FW

HEY!

LANCE!



WHAT
THE FUCK
HAPPENED
IN THERE
?!



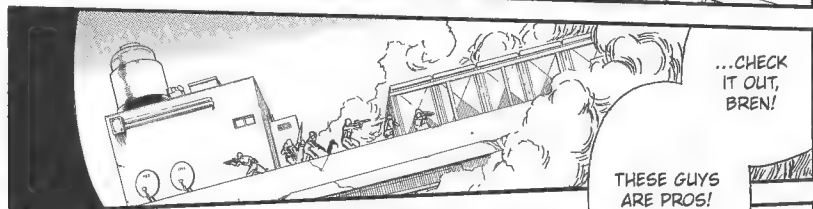
HEY!
WHAT DO
WE DO
NOW?!

THE GUYS
WHO WENT
UP THERE
ARE ALL
DEAD!
GIMME THE
RADIO!

WE'LL SHOW
THEM THEY'RE
THE TURDS
FLOATIN' IN
THE BOWL!

WE PULL
BACK NOW
AND THEY
WOULD'VE
DIED FOR
NOTHING.

WHADDAYA
THINK,
MORON?!



...CHECK
IT OUT,
BREN!

THESE GUYS
ARE PROS!

THEY'VE
DETERMINED IT'S
DISADVANTAGEOUS
TO FIGHT IN CLOSE
QUARTERS, SO
THEY'RE...

RETREATING
TO THE
ROOF!

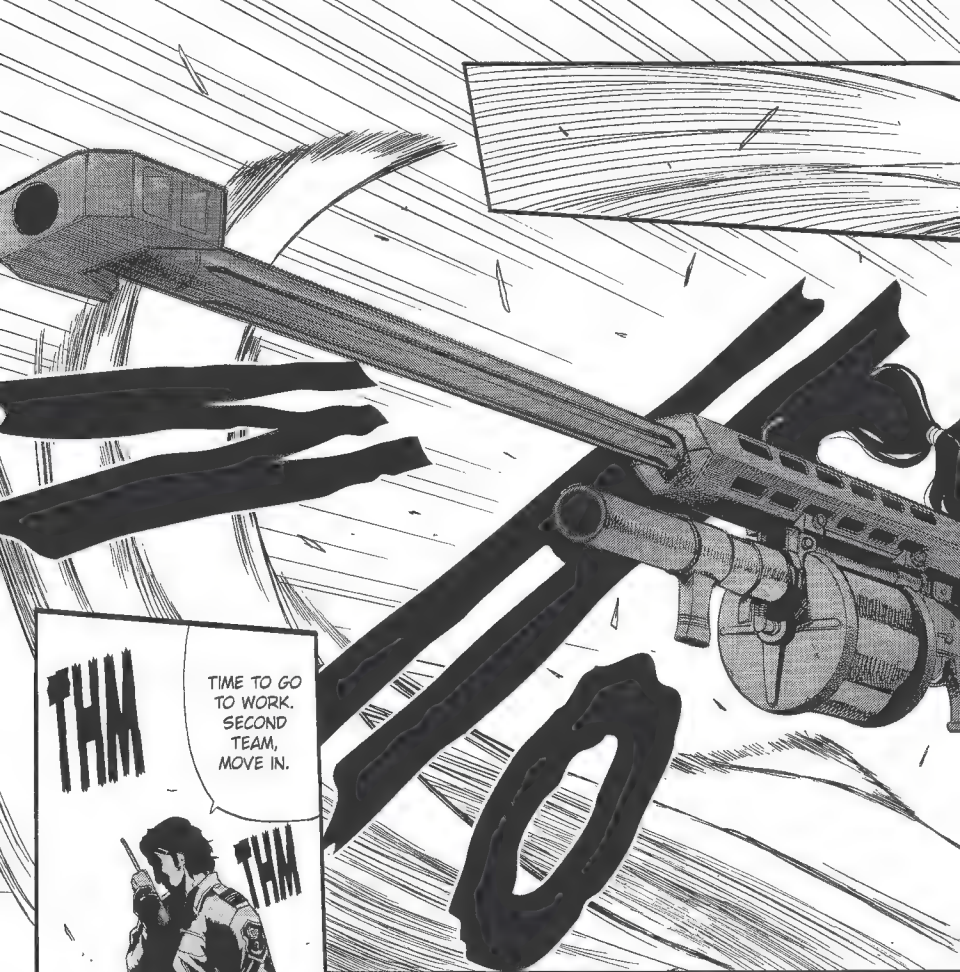




!

IT'S
HER!!

I HAVE
VISUAL
CONTACT!
SHE'S ON THE
ROOF ACROSS
THE STREET!!



THM

TIME TO GO
TO WORK.
SECOND
TEAM,
MOVE IN.

THM

ROGER
THAT!





GET
DOWN!

KL

MAJOR!

WE GOT
A BOGIE
ACROSS
THE-





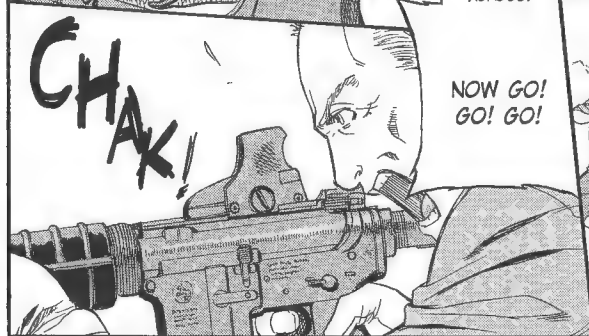
BOOM KBOM

WRIGHT! L.G.!
HORNER! GIMME
SOME COVERING
FIRE!

THE REST OF
YOU MEN, MOVE
OUT!



PIN HIM
DOWN TILL
THE UNIT
GETS
ACROSS!



NOW GO!
GO! GO!



WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
MAJOR
?!



...
NOTHING
CHANGES IF
WE WALK
AWAY.

IF
THEY'RE
FIGHT-
ING...

THAT MEANS
THE HEAD
MATRON IS
STILL ALIVE!

SHIT!

WE'RE LATE!
THE SHOW'S
ALREADY
STARTED!

THIS IS
WAR
ZONE.

IT'LL
ONLY GET
WORSE.

WHEN THIS
OVER, YOU
PAY EXTRA.

THIS IS
THE
DIVIDE...

...DUTCH KEPT
TELLING ME
ABOUT...

THERE'S A
FULL-ON
CLASSIC
FIREFIGHT
UP THERE!
NOW WHAT?

THIS IS
WHERE YOU
MAKE YOUR
CHOICE.

BANG
KABLAN

AR

R

GK

O

O
A



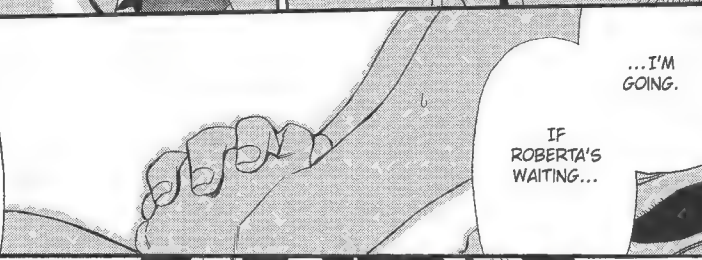
GARCIA.



IT'S UP
TO YOU.

IF YOU
WANT TO
SEE THIS
THROUGH
...

I'LL STICK
WITH YOU TO
THE END.



...I'M
GOING.

I HAVE TO
FIND HER.

IF
ROBERTA'S
WAITING...



WELL. THAT
SETTLES IT.

KTHNK



ROCK.
I CAN'T
BE BABY-
SITTING YOU
OUT THERE.

YOU STAY
HERE AND
CONTACT
THE BOAT.

WAY TO GO,
MR. LITTLE
BOY. THAT
SPIRIT OF
OUTLAW!

YOU WANT
BE MY
CHILD?

FWO
FWO
FWO

WE'RE GOING THROUGH THAT WALL OF SPEARS TO MEET UP WITH THIS KID'S MAID.

LOOK AT THAT PLACE. IT'S HELL'S GODDAMNED CAULDRON. IT'S BOILING LIKE A MOTHER-FUCKER.

LET'S TAKE CARE OF THIS ALREADY. THIS CHILD'S PLAY.

HMPH.

CHAK

...I HOPE SO, SHENHUA.

BR
BR
BR

THE PROBLEM IS, THAT MAID'S GOT A FEW SCREWS LOOSE...

SHE'S A KILLING MACHINE EVEN RAMBO WOULD RUN AWAY FROM WITH HIS ASS ON FIRE.

BR
BR
BR

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY ...

SHE'S FUCKING PISSED RIGHT NOW!

AA
AA
AA



Chapter 59: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XVI





MAKE ME
EVEN
HAPPIER.

HAH!

SO SHE
WORTHY
OPPONENT.



THE ONLY
GUYS YOU'RE
ALLOWED TO
HACK AT ARE
THE FLIES
BUZZING
AROUND.

MAKE NO
MISTAKE,
SHENHUA.

SHE'S OUR
TARGET, BUT
CUTTING HER
HEAD OFF IS
OUT OF THE
QUESTION.

AND...

YOU! GOTTH
CHICK!



YOU PULL SOME
SHIT LIKE YOU DID
THE LAST TIME
AND I'LL SHOVE
A JALAPENO UP
YOUR ASS, YOU
UNDERSTAND ME?

I HAD NO
IDEA YOU
WERE
ADOLPH'S
CLEANER.

LEMME
TELL YOU
SOMETHING.



NOT ONLY
DOES SHE
HAVE A FEW
SCREWS
LOOSE...

SHE'S SO
PISSED SHE'S
HOTTER THAN
A BOILED
SHRIMP.

AND SHE'S
THE ONE WHO
ALWAYS GOT
STRAIGHT A'S
IN KILLING
CLASS!

YOU NO COME
HERE TO PICK
ON HER.

NOW
NOW
NOW.

**SHE'S
RIGHT!**

OH, SO
NOW YOU
WANNA
MOUTH
OFF, EH?

I BET YOU
WERE THE
PERFECT
TARGET FOR
THE JOCKS AT
SCHOOL,
WEREN'T YOU?

V-VULGAR
BITCH.

...YOU
SHOULD BE
WORRIED...
ABOUT
YOURSELF...

FEH.

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
BROUGHT
THIS FREAK
WITH YOU,
SHENHUA.

HE'D LOOK
BETTER HOLDIN'
A GUITAR
INSTEAD OF A
GUN. WHEN DID
YOU COME TO
TOWN?

PRETTY
BOY OVER
THERE
TOO.

PLUS...
I GOT...
THIS
THING
NOW.

NYAH HAH

NYUK
NYUK NYUK

NAH. I
DON'T EVER
REMEMBER
MEETING YOU.

YOU SOME
KINDA
MAN-WHORE
?

...YOU
DON'T
REMEMBER?

...SHOT
FOR
NOTHING

NOTHING.

NOTHING
FUNNY. HEE
HEE HEE HEE.

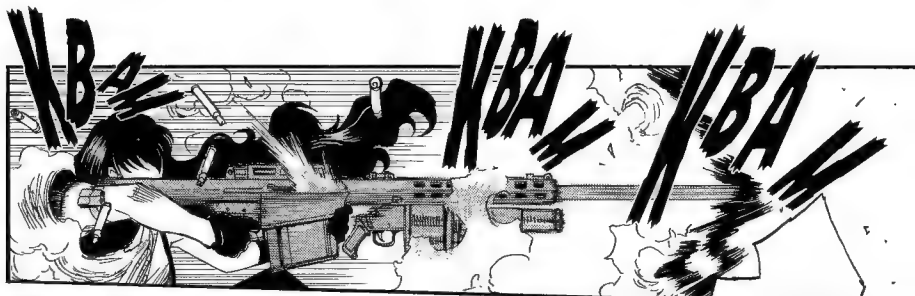
WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?



LET'S
FINISH
THE JOB,
GUYS.

WHATEVER.

THE STAGE
IS SET. THE
ACTORS ARE
ALL HERE.



GARDNER
!!

MOVE
THE UNITS
TOWARD
THE WATER
TANK!



BOOM

SHE'S
USING A
BARRETT
AND
GRENADES
ON US.

MAJOR!

WHAT
ABOUT
THAT
ONE?!

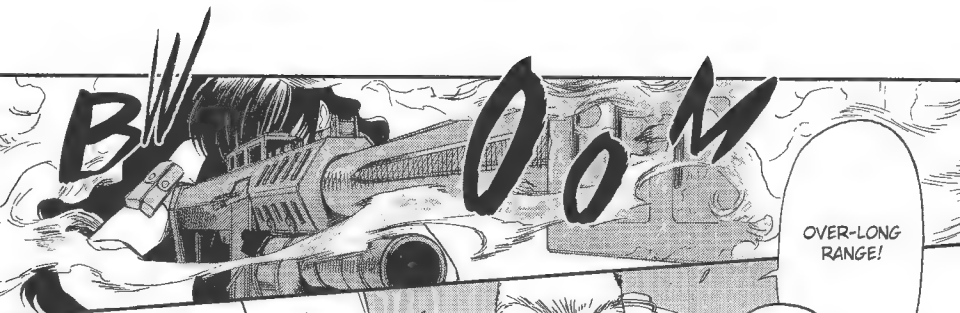
I WAS PLANNING
ON GETTING TO
THE ORP* FROM
THE ROOF, BUT...

THE WAY
THINGS ARE
GOING, WE'LL
WIND UP LIKE
THE SAS IN THE
FALKLANDS.

WHAT?

RAY!
KEEP YOUR
HEAD DOWN
OR YOU'LL
LOSE IT.

*ORP: OBJECTIVE RALLY POINT



OVER-LONG
RANGE!

THAT WEAPON
CAN REACH
FIFTY YARDS
PAST OUR
RALLY POINT.

THAT'S
RIGHT. THE
PROBLEM'S
NOT THE
DAMAGE IT
CAN DO.



...NO.

WAIT,
RAY.

WITH MY
SNIPER
RIFLE—

WE CAN'T GET
PINNED DOWN
HERE. OUR
ENEMY'S OF
UNKNOWN SIZE
AND FORCE.



GET THE
SMOKE
READY
AND...

FIND ME
A ROPE.

WE'RE IN AN
URBAN
ENVIRONMENT—
THERE'S
PLENTY OF
COVER.
WE'LL
MOVE IN
HER BLIND
SPOTS.



SPL SH

...HEY,
SHORTY.

YES!

WELCOME TO
HELL'S 1ST
AVENUE. YOU
READY?

...THE BAR
WHERE YOU
POPPED YOUR
CHERRY?

THIS AIN'T
GONNA BE
LIKE THE
LAST TIME.
WAS...

HUH?

IT WAS
SHAKING SO
MUCH I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
TYPING.

...I KNEW
WHEN I
SHOOK
YOUR
HAND.

I'M NOT
SAYING
THAT'S
FOR
CERTAIN.
BUT...

DON'T
GET ME
WRONG.

THOSE GUNS OF
YOURS WERE
FOUR EYES'
CHOICE, RIGHT?
SHE KNOWS
HER SHIT.

...

AND...

ONCE THE
SHOOTING
WAS OVER
AND THINGS
CALMED
DOWN...

YOUR
KNEES WENT
WEAK...

THAT
BASICALLY
TELLS ME
YOU DON'T
HAVE THE
CONTROL TO
PULL OFF A
SINGLE-SHOT
KILL.

THOSE
THINGS
ARE FOR
SPRAYING.



I'M TELLING
YOU 'CAUSE
IT ENDS IF
YOU DIE
HERE.

JUST LIKE
CHINA SAID,
THIS PLACE IS
NO DIFFERENT
THAN SOMALIA.

DON'T
GIMME
THAT
LOOK.

I'M NOT
HOLDING IT
AGAINST
YOU.

THESE GUYS
BLASTING THEIR
GUNS HERE ONLY
THINK OF YOU
LIKE A CITY
LIMITS SIGN.

SOMETHING
TO TAKE A
FEW POTSHOTS
AT WHEN
YOU'RE DRIVING
SHIT-FACED.

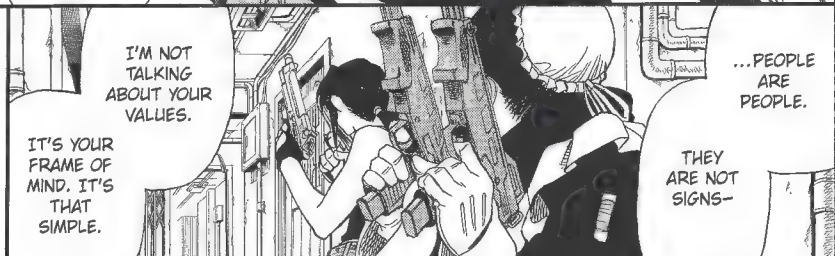


THINK OF
BOTH US
AND THEM
AS SIGNS.

LOWLIFES.

THERE'S A
TRICK TO
KILLING
BASTARDS
LIKE THAT.

OLD, RUSTED
SIGNS THAT
WALK AND
TALK.



I'M NOT
TALKING
ABOUT YOUR
VALUES.

IT'S YOUR
FRAME OF
MIND. IT'S
THAT
SIMPLE.

...PEOPLE
ARE
PEOPLE.

THEY
ARE NOT
SIGNS—



I'M JUST
TELLING
IT LIKE
IT IS.

PLUS...

DON'T
HESITATE TO
PUMP A FEW
ROUNDS INTO
THEM.

MAKE 'EM
DANCE A
BLOODY TWIST
OF FEAR, BABY.

YOU MAKE IT
THROUGH
THIS, YOU'RE A
FULL-FLEDGED
GUNSLINGER.

I CRACKED MY
FIRST PIÑATA
TEN YEARS
AGO. IT'S
YOUR TURN
NOW.

YOU KNOW
WHAT
THEY'RE
CALLED?

SCUM.



...IS IT
BECAUSE...

I'M
FROM THE
BARRIO?

...
WHY DO
YOU THINK
THAT?



YOU
HAVE THE
WRONG
IDEA.

...
...I
THINK...

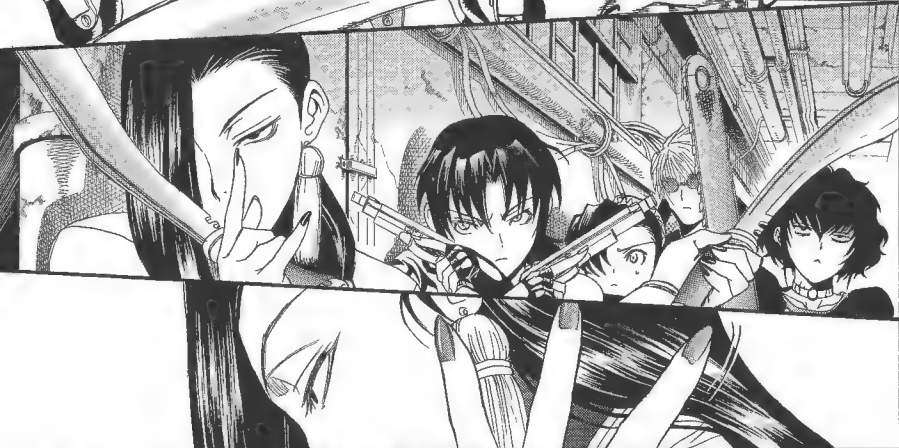
YOUR
UPBRINGING
AND WHATNOT
IS KINDA
LIKE MINE.

I'M JUST
DROPPING
SOME
KNOWLEDGE
ON YOU.

WHAT?

I THINK
YOU DO.

BECAUSE
I...



YOUR
WEAPONS'RE
NO GOOD
HERE.

I'LL TAKE
THE FRONT,
SO TAKE
CARE OF
THE REAR.
READY!

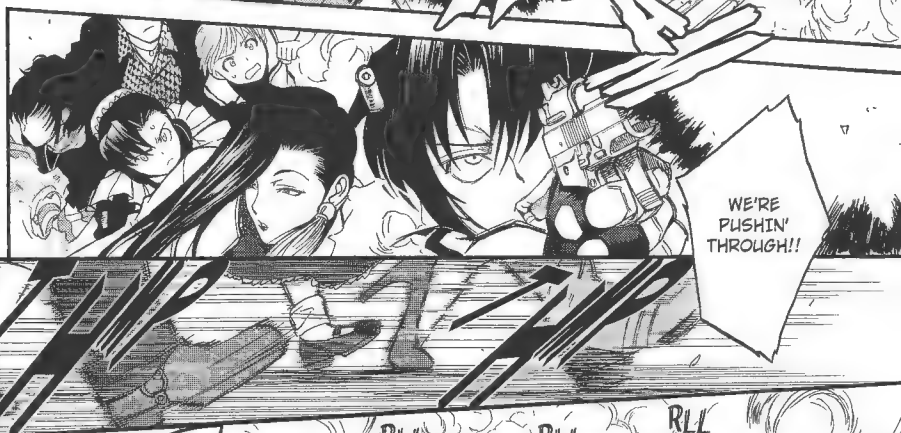
THEIR
POSITION?

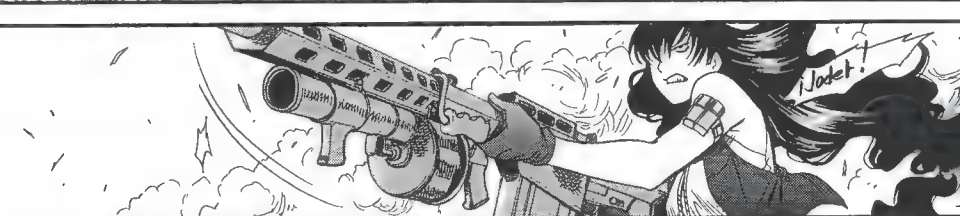
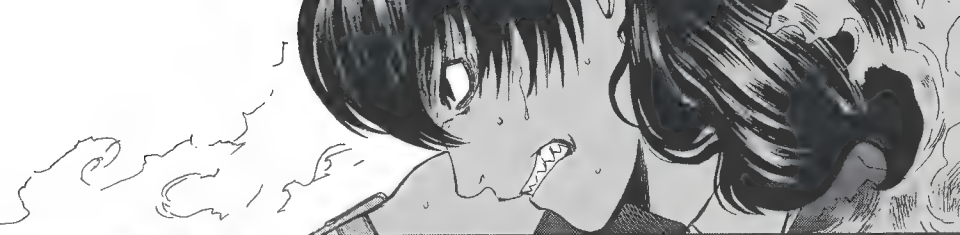
ONE IN
FRONT,
TWO IN
BACK.

HALLWAY
NARROW,
A LITTLE
TROUBLE.















D1, DRIVE
HER TO THE
SNIPING POINT.
WHAT'S HER
CURRENT
LOCATION?

D3, TAKE
THE TEAM
AND SUPPORT
THEM.

COVER'S
NO GOOD!

WE'VE
LOST SIX
MEN!



WHAT'S
HER...?







S-SHE
JUMPED!

SHE
JUMPED
TO THE
BUILDING
ACROSS THE
STREET!



...NO,
SIR.

...SHE HAD
US DEAD
TO RIGHTS.
SHE HAD NO
REASON
TO FLEE...

...BECAUSE
SHE WAS
CORNERED?

...DI.

ZSH



...I KNEW
SOMETHING
WAS
WRONG...

SHE'S
CHASING A
GROUP IN
FRONT OF
HER!

...!
SHE'S
AFTER
SOMETHING!

I KNEW IT.
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE
TRUSTED
THOSE HOODS.

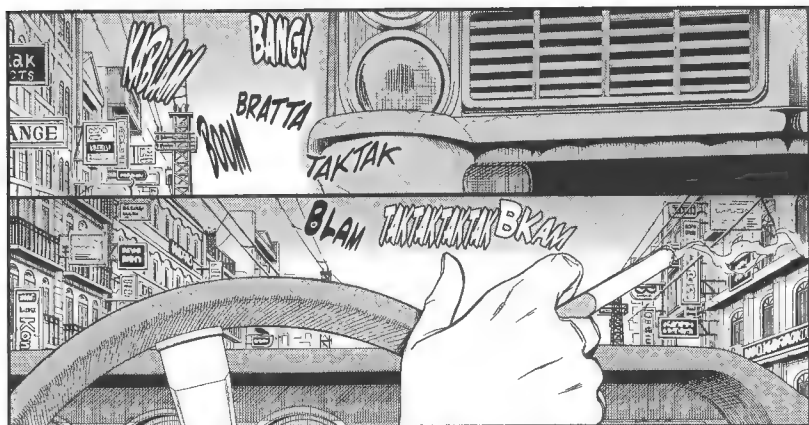
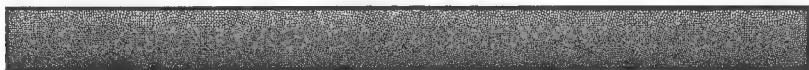
WE'LL
THEN GO
AFTER HER
AND THEM.

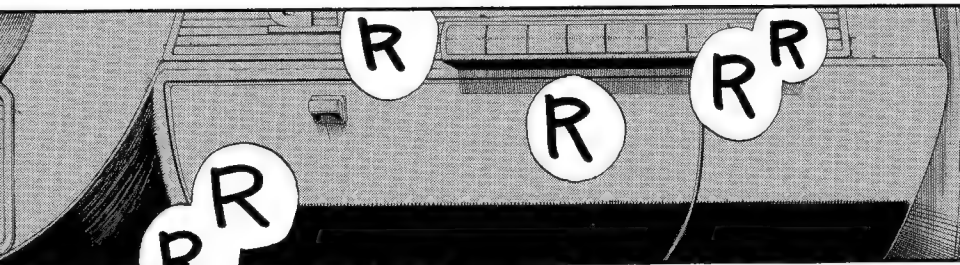
AND
KEEP ME
POSTED.



THE
CARTEL'S
KEPT
SECRETS
FROM US
TOO.

CONTACT
ABREGO.



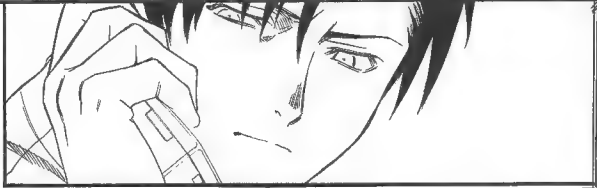


Chapter 60: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XVII





IT'S ME.

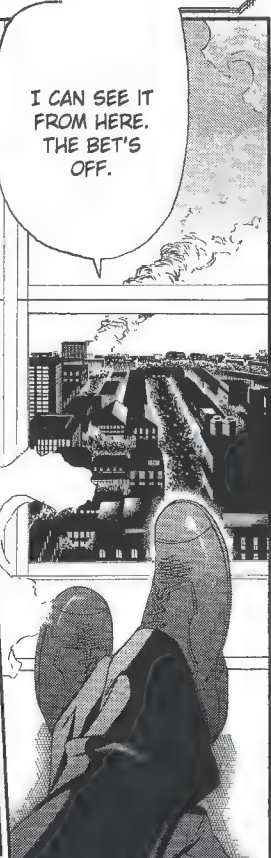


LOOKS LIKE
YOU GUYS
WERE TOO
LATE, ROCK.



WE'LL
HANDLE IT
FROM HERE.
I'M SORRY,
BUT...

IT'S TIME
FOR YOU
TO CLOSE
UP SHOP.
DUTCH IS
PROBABLY
GETTING
ANGRY BY
NOW.



I CAN SEE IT
FROM HERE.
THE BET'S
OFF.

I'LL LET YOU
KNOW HOW IT
ENDS. GOOD
WORK.



THE
ACTORS
ARE STILL
IN PLAY.

...THE
BOY...

AND
THE MAID
TOO.



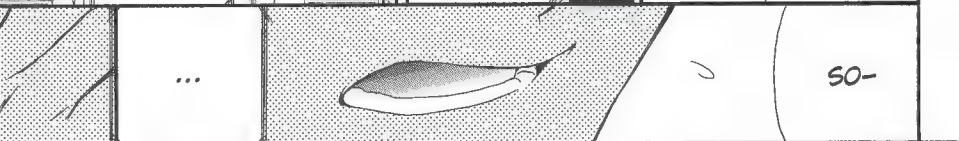
SO...

WE CAN'T
EXIT THE
STAGE YET.



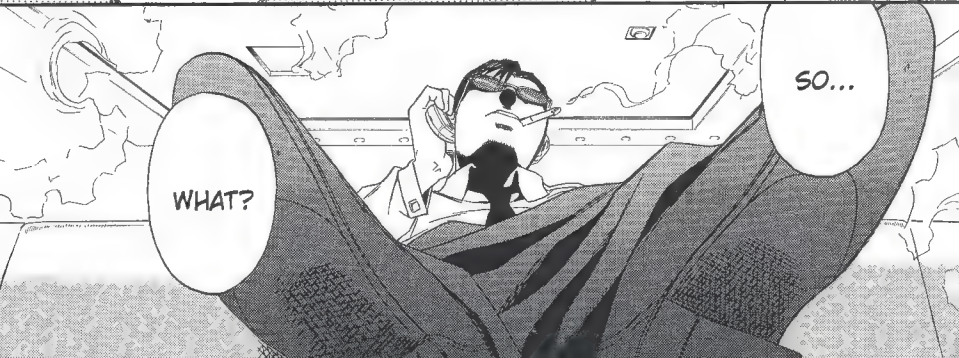
...MR.
CHANG.

THE
CURTAIN
HASN'T
BEEN
DRAWN.



...

SO-

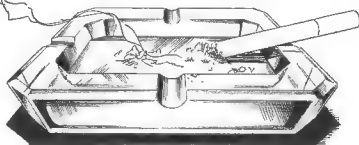


WHAT?

SO...



HYPOCRISY.



...ROCK.

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT I HATE
MOST IN THIS
WORLD?

GN

I
KNOW YOU
UNDER-
STAND THIS,
ROCK.

IT STILL
DOESN'T
CHANGE
THE FACT
IT'S STILL A
PIECE OF
SHIT.

IT MAY
SMELL
LIKE A
ROSE,
BUT...

IT'S EVEN
WORSE
THAN
COMMITTING
CRIMES.

IT'S A
POISON THAT
DECEIVES
NOT ONLY
YOURSELF
BUT OTHERS
TOO.

THE
YOUNG
MASTER...

...OF THE
LOVEFACE
FAMILY AND
THAT
MAID...

...ARE
MERELY
PAWNS TO
ME, AND EVEN
TO YOU.

IT'S LIKE A
TURD DUMPED
IN A BUCKET
OF CHANEL.



NOW THAT
IT'S COME
TO THAT...

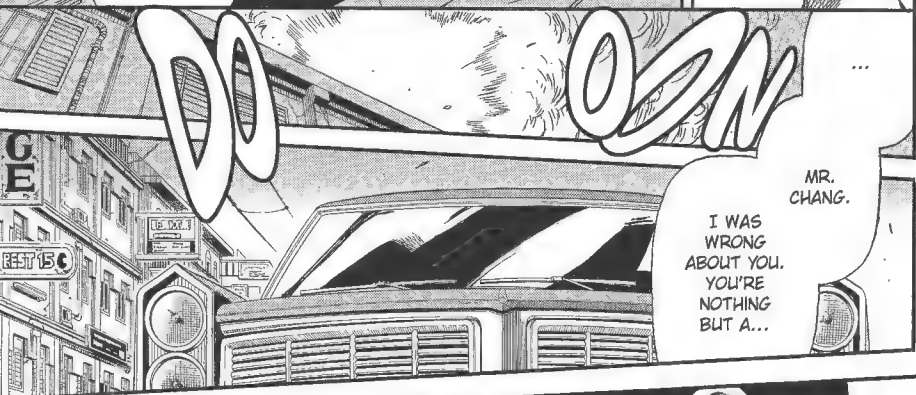
WHAT NEED
IS THERE
TO GRIEVE OVER
THE BOY AND
THE LADY?

BUT THE
CURRENT
SITUATION
ISN'T EXACTLY
IN OUR
FAVOR.

SO I HAVE
TO MAKE
THE NEXT
MOVE
I'VE GOT
PREPARED.

YOU SAID
YOU COULD
CHECKMATE
THE KING.

SO I
PUT MY
MONEY
ON YOU.



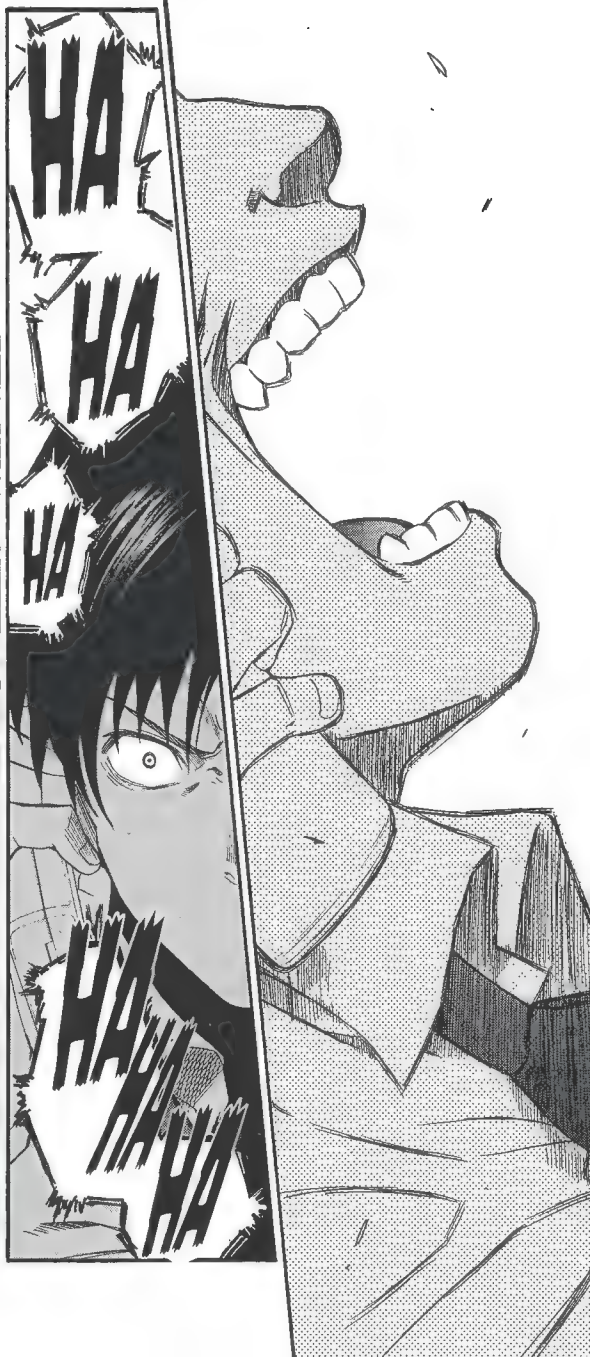
MR.
CHANG.

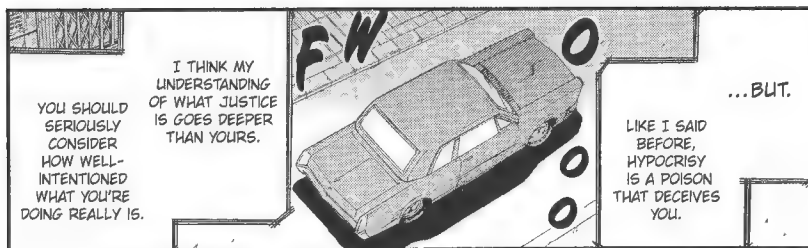
I WAS
WRONG
ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE
NOTHING
BUT A...



...WORTH-
LESS,
COLD-
BLOODED...

...BASTARD!



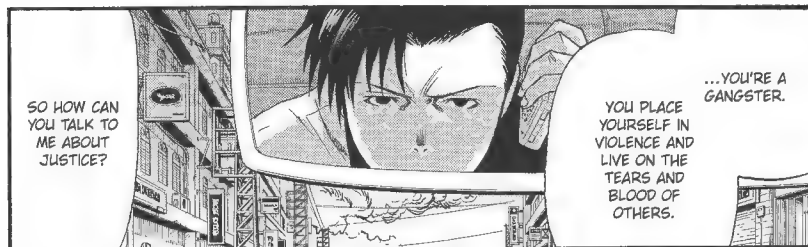


YOU SHOULD
SERIOUSLY
CONSIDER
HOW WELL-
INTENTIONED
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING REALLY IS.

I THINK MY
UNDERSTANDING
OF WHAT JUSTICE
IS GOES DEEPER
THAN YOURS.

...BUT.

LIKE I SAID
BEFORE,
HYPOCRISY
IS A POISON
THAT DECEIVES
YOU.



SO HOW CAN
YOU TALK TO
ME ABOUT
JUSTICE?

...YOU'RE A
GANGSTER.

YOU PLACE
YOURSELF IN
VIOLENCE AND
LIVE ON THE
TEARS AND
BLOOD OF
OTHERS.



HOW
CAN I?

I'LL TELL
YOU HOW.

BECAUSE
YOURS
TRULY WAS
ONCE...

...A GUARDIAN
OF THE LAW.



THERE'RE
A LOT OF
EX'S IN THIS
TOWN.

THAT'S
ALL THERE
IS TO IT.

...IT'S NOT
THAT BIG A
DEAL.



"IT'S
SOMEBODY
ELSE'S
BUSINESS."

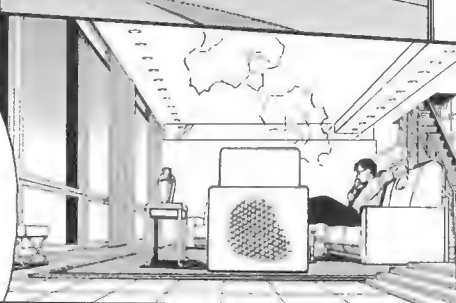
THERE'S A
PERFECT
SAYING FOR
TIMES LIKE
THIS.



YOU CAN KEEP
HOLDING ON,
BUT THERE'S
NOTHING AT
THE END OF
IT ALL.

I'D'VE
THOUGHT
THAT WOULD
MAKE ME
MORE
CONVINCING.

THE
LOVELACE
FAMILY
STEPPED OFF
THE STAGE.
FROM HERE ON
OUT IT'S
ROANAPUR'S
PROBLEM.



IT'S A VERY
CONVENIENT
EXPRESSION.
IT SMOOTHES
THE WORLD
OVER.

ROCK.

IT'S UP TO
THEM TO
DECIDE WHEN
THEY WANT
OUT.

THEY'RE
STILL
ALIVE.

...I WON'T
LET YOU
END THIS.

MR.
CHANG.

I ACT WITH
THE TOWN'S
SURVIVAL AS
A PRIORITY.

IT'S UP
TO ME,
ROCK.

I DON'T THINK
YOU CAN TURN
THIS DICE
GAME AROUND.

ALTHOUGH
...

IF YOU
INSIST ON
CONTINUING
THIS GAME,
DO AS YOU
PLEASE.

BUT...

AND AFTER
WHAT YOU
JUST SAID
TO ME...

I WANT
TO SEE YOU
PROVE
YOU'RE NOT
SPINELESS.

...

BUT STICK A
NOTE ON IT
THAT SAYS,
"YOU WILL
NOT
INTERFERE
WITH ME."





YAH.

FOURTEEN
DOWN. THAT
WAS ALL OF
THEM.



YOU
CLEAN
UP THE
MESS?

SHENHUA?



WE'LL HAVE
TO FIND OUT
FROM ONE
OF THE
SURVIVORS.

WHAT
THE HELL
HAPPENED?

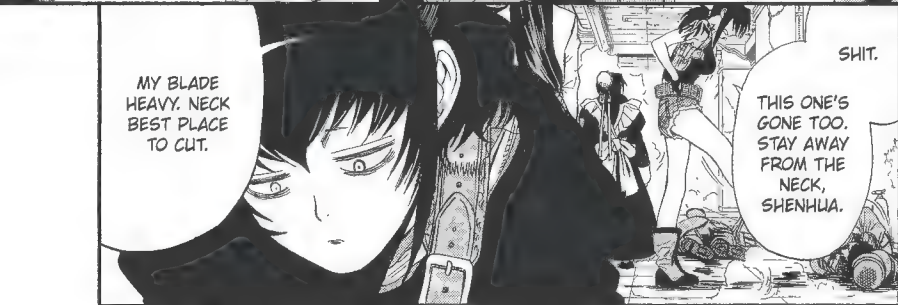
JUST
WHEN I
THOUGHT
THEY RAN UP,
THEY CAME
HURRYIN'
BACK.



STOP YAPPING.
THERE'S
GOTTA BE AT
LEAST ONE OF
'EM STILL
ALIVE.

I SHOULD
HAVE
TAKEN
EASY ON
THEM.

IT HARD TO
FIND ONE
BREATHING.



MY BLADE
HEAVY. NECK
BEST PLACE
TO CUT.

SHIT.

THIS ONE'S
GONE TOO.
STAY AWAY
FROM THE
NECK,
SHENHUA.



HEY!

HEY,
BEANER!

BE
CAREFUL!
HE'S
DYING!

TU HABLA... UH...
RESPONDE PREGUNTA.
¿COMPRENDE?
(SPEAK... UH... ANSWER
QUESTION. UNDERSTAND?)



...HE'S
STILL
ALIVE.



I CAN
SEE
THAT.

THIS IS
GOING
NOWHERE.
TRANSLATE.

THAT
ONE? GOOD
JOB.



TELL HIM
WE'LL TAKE
HIM TO A
DOCTOR IF
HE TALKS.

FLIK

SÓLO QUEREMOS SABER
ADONDE FUE ROSARITA.
(ALL WE WANT TO KNOW
IS WHERE ROSARITA
WENT.)

¡SI! NOS DICES TE LLEVAMOS A UN
HOSPITAL! ...O A UN LUGAR DONDE TE
ENCUENTREN TUS AMIGOS!
(IF YOU TELL US, WE'LL TAKE YOU TO
THE HOSPITAL...OR SOMEWHERE WHERE
YOUR FRIENDS WILL FIND YOU!)



I KNOW
YOU'RE
AFTER
ROBER...
ROSARITA.

WHERE
IS SHE?

NO TE HAREMOS DAÑO.
SOLO DINOS DONDE
ESTA ROSARITA.
(WE WON'T HURT YOU.
WHERE IS ROSARITA?)

ELLA...PERSIGUE A
ALGUIEN.
(SHE...IS CHASING
SOMEONE.)

MI COMANDANTE ENVIÓ UN
ESCUADRÓN POR ELLA.
(MY COMMANDER SENT A
SQUAD AFTER HER.)

ROSARITA CORRIÓ HACIA EL EDIFICIO
DE ENFRENTÉ. Y VIA HACIA LA
INTERSECCIÓN EN LA CALLE OESTE...
(ROSARITA WENT INTO THE BUILDING
ACROSS THE STREET. SHE'S HEADED
TOWARD THE INTERSECTION TO THE
WEST.)

¿VOY A...VIVIR?
WILL I...LIVE?

¡QUE DIOS TE BENDIGA Y SE
APIADE DE TU ALMA!
MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND
TAKE PITY ON YOUR SOUL.

KLIK

STEP
BACK,
KIDDO.

YOU IN
PAIN,
BEANER?

RELAX,
EVERY-
THING'S
GONNA BE
JUST FINE.

...HE SAID THE
HEAD MATRON
FOLLOWED THE
U.S. TROOPS
TOWARD THE
WESTERN
INTERSECTION...

ALONG THE
BUILDINGS.

WEST, HUH?
ALL RIGHT.



OKAY.

IT'S THE
RANSAP,
NANKWAI
INTER-
SECTION.

LET'S GET
OVER THERE.
WE DON'T
HAVE MUCH
TIME.



I'LL
MAKE
IT...

...ALL
BETTER.



WHAT'RE
YOU DOING,
SHORTY?

LET'S CUT
OUT THE
BACK-



AK

FABIOLA!

YOU GOT
THE BUSINESS
END OF THAT
WEAPON
POINTED
AT ME.

I WONDER
WHY THAT
IS?

HEY...

HEY.

SO WHY
THE HELL
DID YOU
SHOOT
HIM?!

THE
FIGHT
WAS
OVER.

WHAT WAS
THAT FOR?

BUT YOU
SHOT HIM.

IF WE TOOK
HIM TO THE
HOSPITAL, IT
WAS 60/40
HE WOULD'VE
DIED.

IF YOU'RE
GONNA
FIGHT THEM,
YOU GOTTA
FINISH 'EM.

IT
IS.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

THE FIGHT'S
NOT OVER
TILL THEY'RE
DEAD.

THAT WASN'T
SELF-DEFENSE.
WHAT YOU
DID WAS
*ANIKILACIÓN**!

BUT...
HE WAS
DYING.
HE WAS
DESPERATE
TO BE
SAVED.

YOU LEAVE
'EM HALF
DEAD AND I
PROMISE YOU
YOU'LL HAVE
TO TAKE
THEM ON
AGAIN.

ISN'T IT LIKE
THAT IN THE
BARRIO?



"OVER-
KILL"?

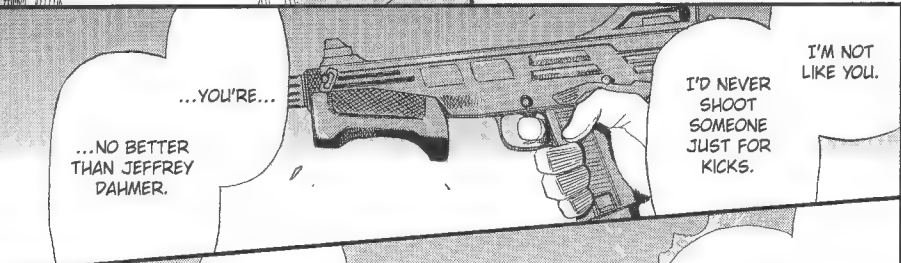
HOW MANY
DEAD BODIES
DID YOU
STACK UP AT
THE BAR?

SPEAK
ENGLISH,
CHIKUITA.

AND I'M NOT
POINTIN' MY GUN
AT YOU RIGHT
NOW. IS THIS
SELF-DEFENSE?

SHE'S
SAYING
IT WAS
OVERKILL...

...MISS
REBECCA.



...YOU'RE...

...NO BETTER
THAN JEFFREY
DAHMER.

I'D NEVER
SHOOT
SOMEONE
JUST FOR
KICKS.

I'M NOT
LIKE YOU.



HOW ARE WE
DIFFERENT?

KILLING IS THE
ULTIMATE INEQUITY.
WHETHER THERE'S
A REASON FOR IT
OR NOT.

I GOT NO
INTEREST IN
COLLECTING
TESTICLES, AND
YOU HAVEN'T
ANSWERED MY
QUESTION EITHER.

DAHMER?



THEN WE
ALL QUIT
HERE.

MISS
CHAMBERMAID.

YOU WANT
KEEP
TALKING
MORALS?



HOW FAR
CAN YOU AND
BOY GET...

I BET ON
THAT. THAT
SOUNDS
INTERESTING.





LET'S
GET
GOING.

WE STILL
HAVEN'T
CAUGHT UP
TO HER.



YOU'RE A
SMART KID,
YOUNG
MASTER.

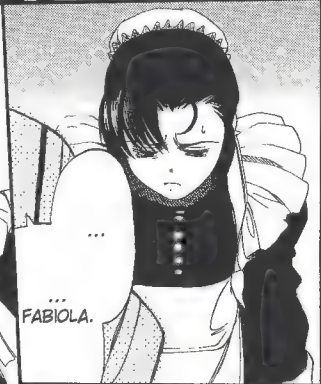
SAWYER, YOU
KNOW THESE
ALLEYS
BETTER'N US.
LEAD THE WAY.



WE HAVE TO
SAVE HER.

THESE
WOMEN ARE
PROFESSIONAL
PROBLEM
SOLVERS. RIGHT
NOW WE NEED
THEIR HELP.

BUT...



...

FABIOLA.



THAT'S
WHY...

I WANT YOU
TO BEHAVE
THE WAY YOU
THINK IS
RIGHT.

PLEASE
REMEMBER
THIS.

THIS IS *TIERRA
DE VIOLENCIA*, A
PLACE WHERE
EVERYONE
DANCES AN
IMMORAL *BAILE
DE LA MUERTE*.



THAT'S THE
ONE RIGHT
THING THAT
WON'T
CHANGE...

I BELIEVE
IN THAT.

AND WE'LL
ALL GO BACK
HOME
TOGETHER.

TUP

ZH

WE SHALL
ALL GO
HOME
TOGETHER.

THAT IS WHAT
I CAME HERE
FOR.

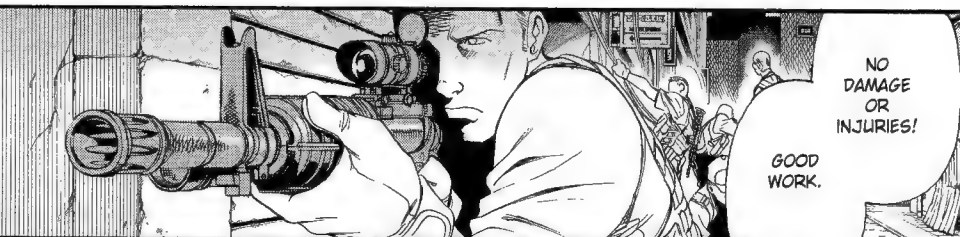
ME
TOO.

YOUNG
MASTER.



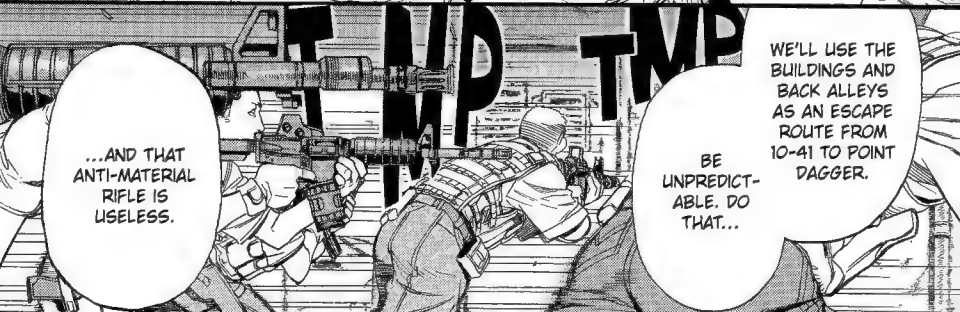
ALL TEAM
MEMBERS
OFF RAPPEL.

Chapter 61: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XVIII



NO
DAMAGE
OR
INJURIES!

GOOD
WORK.

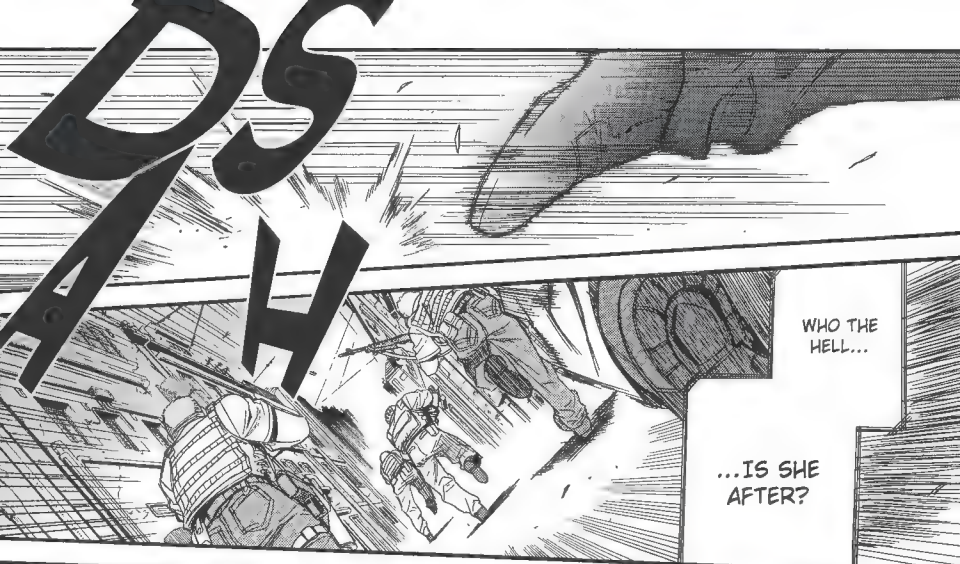


...AND THAT
ANTI-MATERIAL
RIFLE IS
USELESS.

BE
UNPREDICT-
ABLE. DO
THAT...

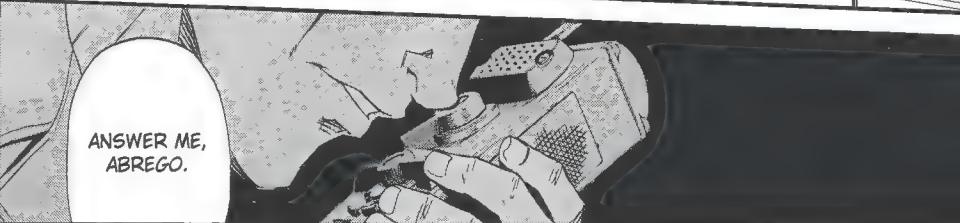
WE'LL USE THE
BUILDINGS AND
BACK ALLEYS
AS AN ESCAPE
ROUTE FROM
10-41 TO POINT
DAGGER.



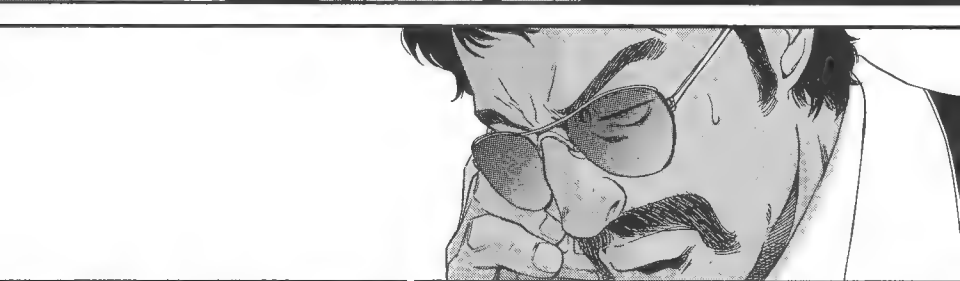


WHO THE
HELL...

...IS SHE
AFTER?



ANSWER ME,
ABREGO.



LET ME
PUT THIS
TO YOU
STRAIGHT.

I TRUST YOU
EVEN LESS
THAN THE
ENEMY NOW.

ALL WE
HEARD
WAS THAT
SHE WAS
HERE IN
TOWN.

BUT WE
OPEN THE LID
AND EVERY
SINGLE THING
CONTRADICTS
WHAT WE
WERE TOLD.



THAT'S
NONE OF
YOUR
BUSINESS!

WE
ALREADY GOT
MARULANDA'S
APPROVAL!

JUST SHUT
YOUR MOUTH
AND BRING ME
THAT BITCH'S
HEAD!



SEEMS
YOUR
BOSS IS
PLAYING
BOTH
SIDES.

WHO'S HE
WORKING
FOR? THE
DIA? NSA?



...IT'S GOT
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH YOU.

LEAVE
THEM BE,
CAMARASA.

OR THINGS
COULD
REALLY
GET OUT
OF HAND.



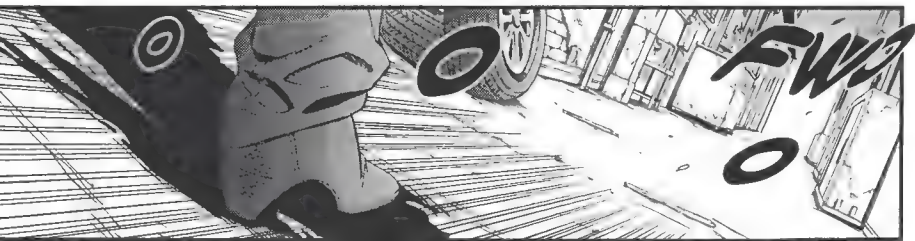
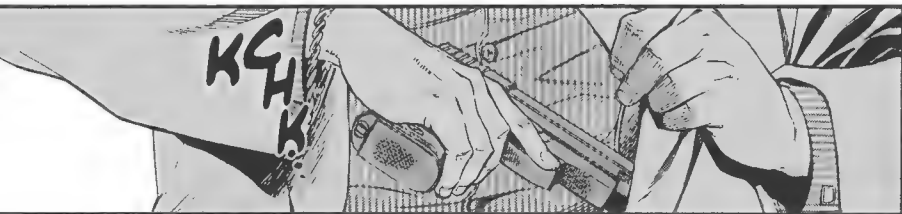
I DON'T
NEED SOME
GANG BOSS
LECTURING ME
ABOUT TACTICS.

WE'RE GOING
TO TAKE OUT
ALL THREATS
BETWEEN US
AND ROSARITA.

IF THE THREAT
HAPPENS TO BE
AN IMPERIALIST
DOG, THEN
THAT'S JUST
A BONUS.

GOODBYE.

VCH
'K



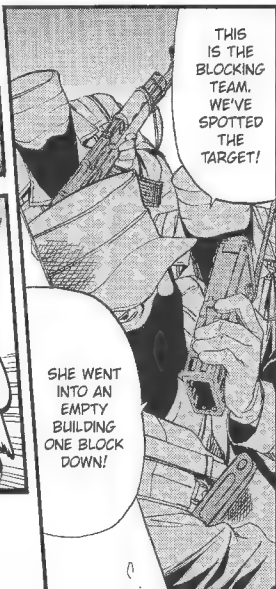




ROGER
THAT.

BE READY
FOR
ANYTHING
AND DON'T
SPREAD OUT.

ROGER.



THIS
IS THE
BLOCKING
TEAM.
WE'VE
SPOTTED
THE
TARGET!

SHE WENT
INTO AN
EMPTY
BUILDING
ONE BLOCK
DOWN!

YO,
WAIT!

BUGSY
WENT TO
STRAIGHTEN
THIS OUT.

WE'RE
GONNA KEEP
GOING?! WE
ONLY GOT-

THIS JOB'S
NOT OVER
UNTIL HE GETS
BACK. AND
BESIDES...

SHUT UP,
JOSÉ!

WE PULL
BACK
NOW...

THE GUYS
WOULDA DIED
FOR NOTHING!





ANOTHER
WALL OF
SPEARS.

THE
FUCKERS IN
THIS TOWN
REALLY LIKE
SHOOTING
SHIT UP.

YEAH,
RIGHT.

WHAT DO
YOU SAY TO
GUYS WITH
OVERHEATED
2-DOLLAR
BRAINS
CARRYING
250-DOLLAR
GUNS...



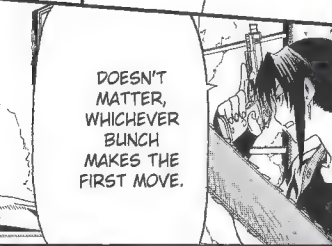
...BESIDES,
THEY ONLY
SPEAK
SPANISH.

YOU'D
BE BETTER
OFF TALKING
TO A FIRE
EXTINGUISHER.



AIYA,
THIS NO
GOOD.

MAYBE
WE CAN
SWEET-
TALK OUR
WAY PAST
THEM?



DOESN'T
MATTER,
WHICHEVER
BUNCH
MAKES THE
FIRST MOVE.



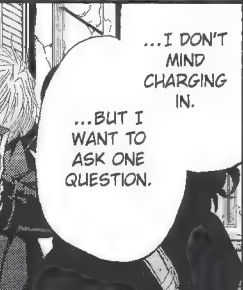
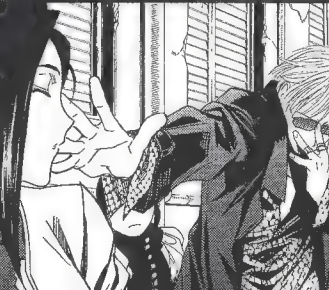
OK, WE
SHOOT
THEM.

...WHICH
ONE...?



OH,
YOU CAN
TALK?

WHAT
DO YOU
WANNA
KNOW?



...I DON'T
MIND
CHARGING
IN.

...BUT I
WANT TO
ASK ONE
QUESTION.



WOULD
IT LOOK
COOL...

...IF
I MADE AN
ENTRANCE
THERE?



...THAT
ELEVATED
AREA-

OH,
THAT?

NOT
A GOOD
SPOT FOR
HANDGUNS.



HEY.

DON'T EVEN
GO UP
THERE. YOU
JUST STICK
WITH THE
GOTH CHICK.

PAY NO
MIND! HE A
LITTLE BIT
STRANGE IN
HEAD.

YO.

WHERE'D
YA FIND
THIS GUY?



THIS SHIT'S
IMPORTANT
AND COULD
SAVE YOUR
LIFE. YOU
LISTENING?

BEFORE WE
START THE
FIREWORKS UP
AGAIN, LET'S
SETTLE OUR
LITTLE
DISCUSSION
FROM BEFORE.

HEY.

SHORTY!



...THAT WERE
TRYING TO RUN
AWAY. DID YOU
PLAN THAT?
WERE YOU AFTER
A LITTLE TASTE
OF ANNIHILATION
OF YOUR OWN?

...NAH.

BACK AT
THE BAR...

YOU EVEN
WASTED THE
GUYS...



YOU'RE JUST
A DOG NO
MATTER WHAT
YOU MIGHT
THINK.



IF YOU'RE
SERIOUS
ABOUT
SAVING
YOUR YOUNG
MASTER...



THAT WAS
THE BEAST
INSIDE YOU
TALKING.

DON'T
LISTEN TO
HIM.

I'M TELLING
YOU OUTTA THE
GOODNESS OF
MY HEART, THIS
IS IT. AFTER
THIS YOU GOTTA
WIPE YOUR OWN
ASS.

THAT SHIT
ONLY FLIES
IN PLACES
WHERE LOVE
AND
FRIENDSHIP
ACTUALLY
MATTER.

TELLING
YOU TO KILL
'EM ALL
SO THERE
WOULDN'T
BE TROUBLE
LATER.



THIS
PARTY'S
ROCKIN'
AND WE'RE
GONNA BE
LATE.



EVER
SEE THE
MAGNIFICENT
SEVEN?

...

CREAK

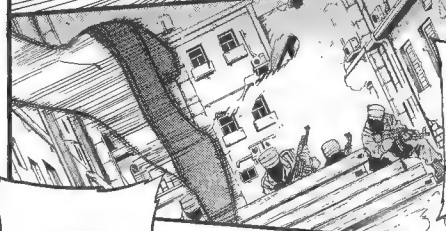
RRT

THEY
SAID...

"WE
DEAL..."







WE GOT
A NEW
THREAT!

WHO
ARE
THEY?!

SHOOT
ANYTHING
THAT
MOVES!
THEY'RE
ALL
ENEMIES!
FIRE!







YOU VILLAINS
WHO WOULD
POINT
SINISTER
BLADES AT
A CHILD...

...BENEATH
THIS PALE
BLUE
MOONLIGHT.

STOP!



GOD ONLY
SITS ON
HIGH AND
OBSERVES.

THERE-
FORE...

MY GUN KILLS ITS
TARGET WITHOUT
DISCRIMINATION!

...THERE ARE
NONE BUT I
TO PUNISH
THE WICKED IN
HIS STEAD.



SAWYER!

USE HIM
AS A
SHIELD!



YOUNG
MASTER!

UGH!
ALL THIS
BLOOD
IN HERE
STINKS!

I CAN'T
SEE
THROUGH
THE MIST
OF BLOOD!
CUT THE
ENGINE!

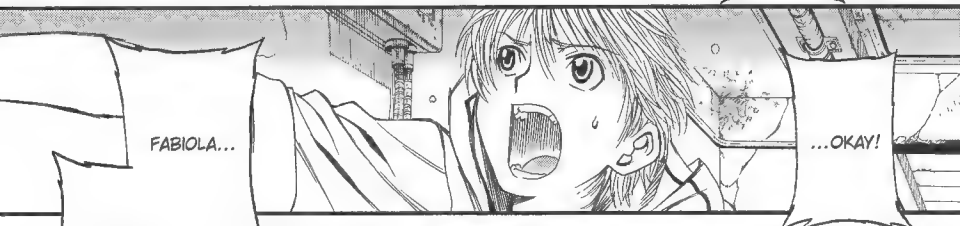


YOUNG
MASTER!



PLEASE
KEEP
GOING!

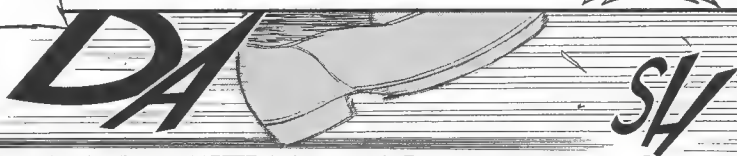
THERE'S
TOO MUCH
GUNFIRE!
I CAN'T
GET TO
YOU!



FABIOLA...

...OKAY!

...FOLLOW
ME WHEN
YOU CAN!



ขึ้น
บันได

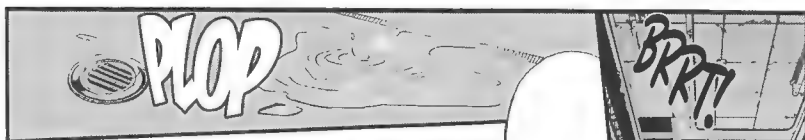


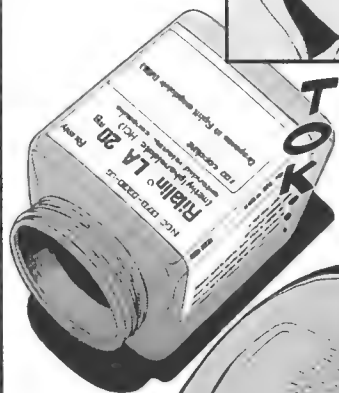


Chapter 62: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XIX









TOK



THAT'S THE BEST
WAY TO COOL OFF
WHEN YOUR
BLOOD'S BOILING.

...I KNEW THE
HEAD MATRON
HADN'T BEEN
FEELING WELL
EVEN BEFORE
WE LEFT...



BUT...SHE'S
HEADED
STRAIGHT FOR
THE AMERICANS.

PERHAPS
SHE'S NO
LONGER
HERE...?

GOOD
JOB.

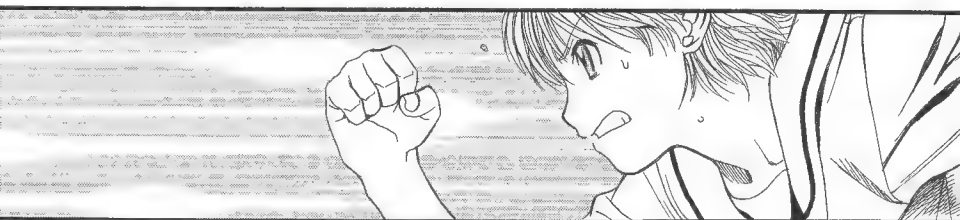
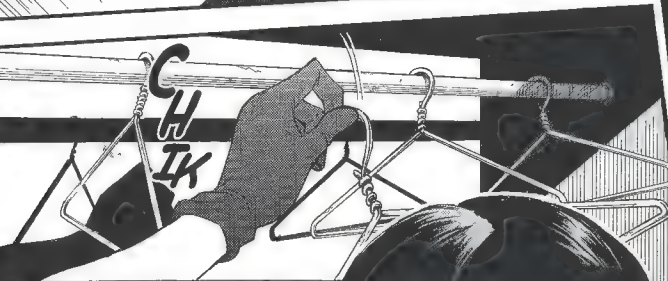
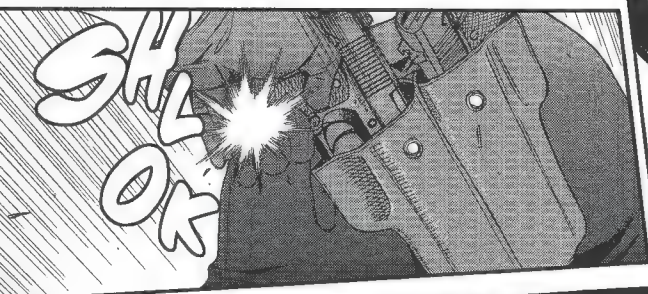
BUT FIND
ROSARITA
BEFORE WE'RE
INTERRUPTED.

SHE'S
HERE. FIND
HER.

IF THE
COMMANDER OF
THE GRINGOS IS
SMART AND HAS
REINFORCEMENTS,
HE'LL LINK UP
WITH THEM AND
TRY TO FLANK
HER.

WE TAUGHT
THEM THAT.







EVEN
THOUGH
WE HAD TO
COME TO
THIS
HORRIBLE
PLACE...

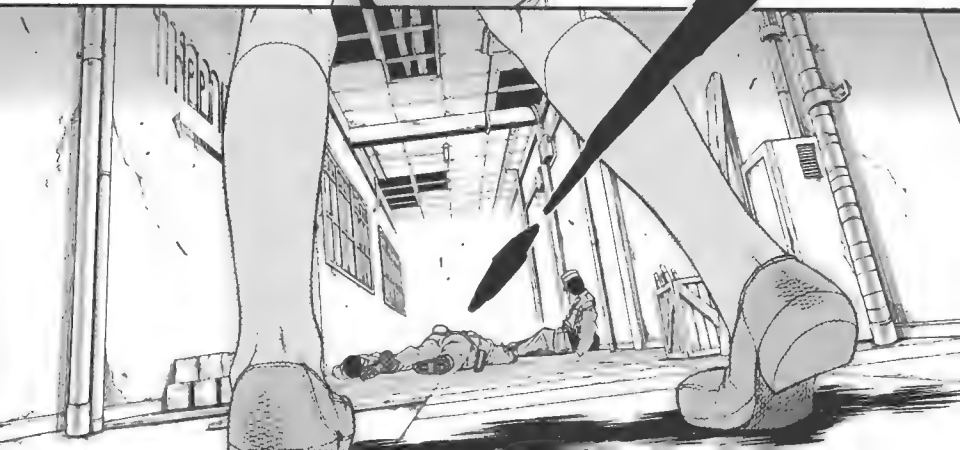
ROBERTA'S
HERE!

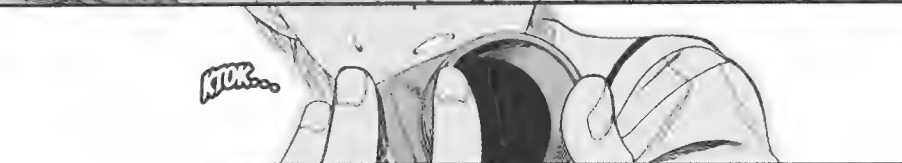
FINALLY,
FINALLY...

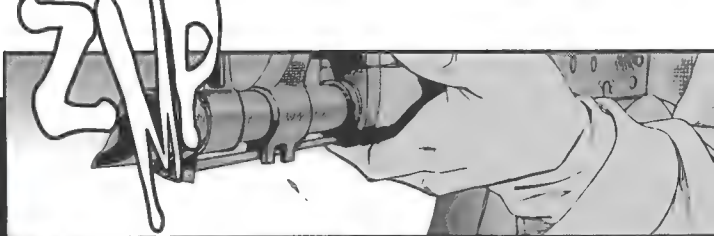
BUT...

I'LL BE
THERE
SOON!

I'VE
CAUGHT
UP TO
HER!







ROJES,
RESPOND.
ANYBODY
UPSTAIRS?

IT'S
THEM!

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO? I
HAVE TO
HIDE!

ROJES!



...HEY!

HEY, IT'S
ROJES!

ROJES,
RESPOND!



WHERE ELSE
ARE OUR
COMRADES
SEARCHING?
HEY...?

ROJES!

WHAT'S
GOING ON
UPSTAIRS?







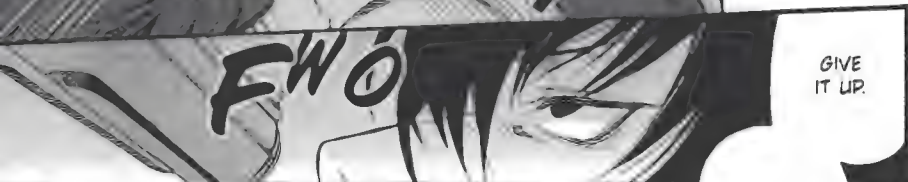
THE YEARS
HAVE PASSED,
BUT YOU'VE
STILL GOT IT...

EL
SABUESO!

UD

KHO





GIVE
IT UP.

LOOK AT MY
UNIT PATCH.
YOU SHOULD
RECOGNIZE
IT.

I KNOW
EVERYTHING
YOU KNOW.



EXACTLY.
NORMALLY
MY JOB IS
TRAINING
SOLDIERS...

BUT I'M
HERE AT
COMANDANTE
MARULANDA'S
DIRECT
REQUEST.

FORMACIÓN
ESPECIAL
NAVAL...

HAVANA...!

NOT
EVERYONE IN
THE CENTRAL
COMMAND
AGREES
WITH HIM.

...THE
COMANDANTE
INSISTS WE
TAKE YOUR
HEAD.

YOU TURNED
THIS INTO
HAND-TO-
HAND COMBAT
BECAUSE YOU
DIDN'T WANT
THOSE
AMERICAN
IMPERIALISTS
TO HEAR
GUNFIRE.

I HAD
PLENTY OF
OPPOR-
TUNITIES
TO SHOOT
YOU.

...DON'T
YOU FIND
THAT
SUSPICIOUS
?

COMMANDER
VARGAS AND
I HAVE A
DIFFERENT
OPINION.

I HAVE A
DIFFERENT
REASON.

YOU'RE
THINKING,
"WHY
DIDN'T HE
SHOOT?"
IT'S
WRITTEN ON
YOUR FACE.

...FROM
OLD MAN
CARLOS,
IMPRISONED
IN SUDAN.

YOU WERE
THE ONLY
ONE WORTHY
TO TAKE
THE NAME
"JACKAL"...

YOU WERE
ONCE THE MOST
PROMINENT
ACTIVIST IN
THE CENTRAL
AMERICAN
GUERRILLA
MOVEMENT.

SKILLED
PERSONNEL
LIKE YOU ARE
INVALUABLE
TO ANY
ORGANIZATION.

KACHIK

NOT FOR
IDEOLOGY,
NOT FOR A
COUNTRY,
BUT FOR A
PURPOSE.

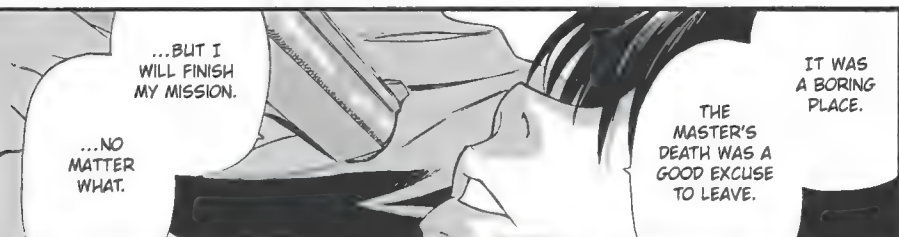
NOWADAYS
GUERRILLAS
COOPERATE
ON A
GLOBAL
SCALE.

BUT I
KNOW
YOU CAN'T
RESIST
THE SCENT
OF BLOOD.

LIFE AS A
COUNTRY MAID
MAY HAVE
DOMESTICATED
YOU...

COME
BACK
WITH ME.

EL
SABUESO.





I DOUBT THE
COMANDANTE
WOULD
FORGIVE ME
SO EASILY.

...

...IN ANY
EVENT.

I WOULDN'T
MIND GOING
HOME WITH
THEIR HEADS
EITHER.



DON'T
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
ME,
ROSARITA.

THE TWO OF
US COULD
EASILY TAKE
CARE OF THE
AMERICANS.

MY WILL IS
HAVANA'S
WILL.

IF I GIVE THEM
THE AMERICANS'
HEADS, AND
VOUCH FOR YOU,
I DON'T THINK
ANYONE WILL
COMPLAIN.



...DON'T
GET ANY
FUNNY
IDEAS,
ROSARITA.

WELL.

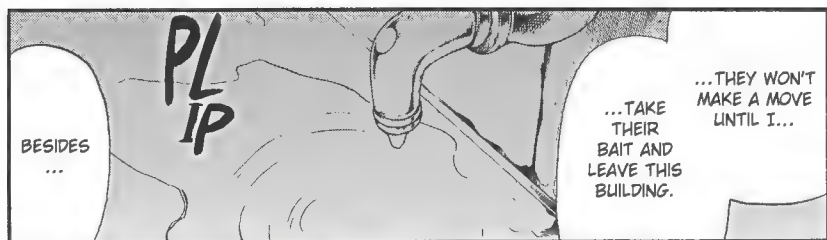
I HAVE NO
HOSTILITY
TOWARD
YOU. EITHER
WAY...

CHASING
DOWN THE
AMERICANS
IS OUR
PRIORITY.

...GET
ON YOUR
GOOD
SIDE?

DON'T YOU
THINK IT
WOULD BE
WISE FOR
ME TO...

CONSIDERING
WHAT YOU
JUST SAID...



BESIDES
...

...THEY WON'T
MAKE A MOVE
UNTIL I...
...TAKE
THEIR
BAIT AND
LEAVE THIS
BUILDING.

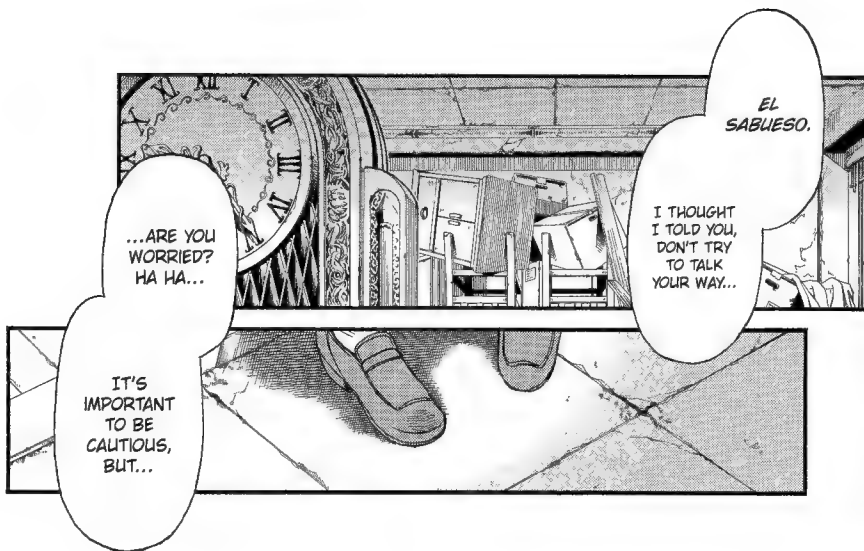


THIS PLACE IS
LIKE A SAUNA...
IT'S FILLED WITH
THE HEAT OF
DEATH.



THE STEAMING
SCENT OF
BLOOD...

...REALLY
TURNS
ME ON.



Chapter 63: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XX





DON'T TEST ME.
I'M THE ONE
WHO TESTS
YOU.



SO, ARE
YOU MY
DOG?

THEN BE A
GOOD DOG
AND...





STICK OUT
YOUR TONGUE.



KRIK

MMMM...
MMMM...

Ah...

KRIK

SQUEEZE

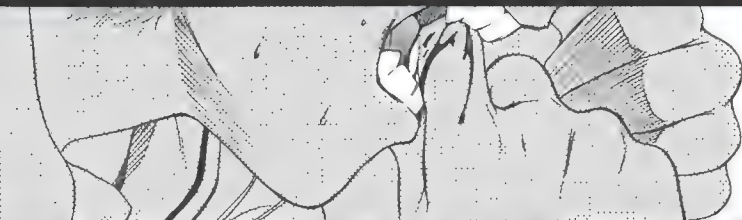
KI

Ah...

Ah...

AH
HA...

AHH



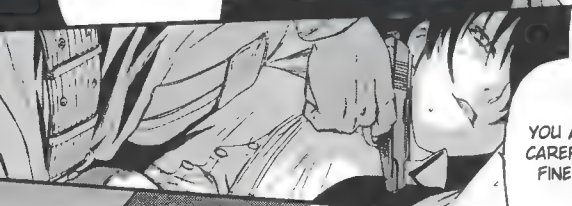
I'M SORRY,
BUT I STILL
DON'T
TRUST YOU.
DO IT
YOURSELF.

DON'T
MAKE ME
LAUGH.

...OR YOU
CAN, IF
YOU'RE
WORRIED-

...STOP.

DON'T
RIP MY
CLOTHES...



...HEH,
HEH...

YOU ARE
CAREFUL.
FINE...



I'LL
TAKE THEM
OFF...
SLOWLY.

I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO GET THE
WRONG IDEA
AND SHOOT
ME.



I DON'T
WANT TO
FIGHT THEM
NAKED.

CAN I
TAKE
OFF...MY
PANTS?



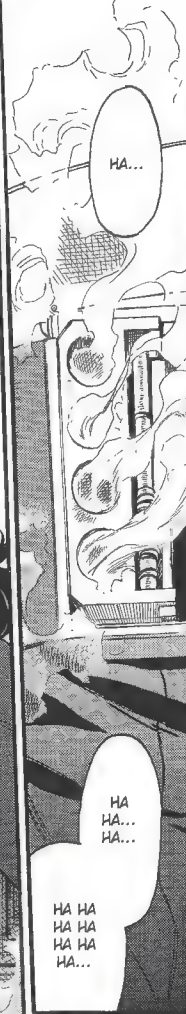


...NOT
ENOUGH.

...HA
HA.

NOT
NEARLY
ENOUGH.

YOU
SHOULD'VE
BEEN...WAY
MORE
CAUTIOUS.



HA...

HA
HA...
HA...

HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA...



UGH...

YOU...

YOU
BITCH...!



ONCE A DOG
LEAVES ITS
HOME IT NEVER
COMES BACK
TO ITS OLD
MASTER.

YOU...
HADN'T
REALIZED
THAT.

YOU REALLY
SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN...



BUT NOT
EVERYTHING
I JUST
SAID WAS
A LIE.

IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
MUCH EASIER
TO JUST USE
YOU AND THEN
BETRAY YOU.

...SURE,
IF I
JOINED
YOU...

HUNTING
DOWN THOSE
AMERICAN
FOXES WOULD
BE EASY.



YOU
BOTH
SERVE
THE SAME
MASTER.

A LOATHSOME
FRAUD CALLED
IDEOLOGY OR
PHILOSOPHY.

I WILL
NEVER
SERVE A
MASTER
LIKE THAT
AGAIN.

THERE'S ONLY
ONE PERSON IN
THIS WORLD
THAT CAN PUT
A COLLAR
ON ME.



IT'S
BECAUSE
...

YOU, AND
THOSE
FOXES...



BUT
I WILL
NEVER...
JOIN
YOU.

...YOU
KNOW
WHY?

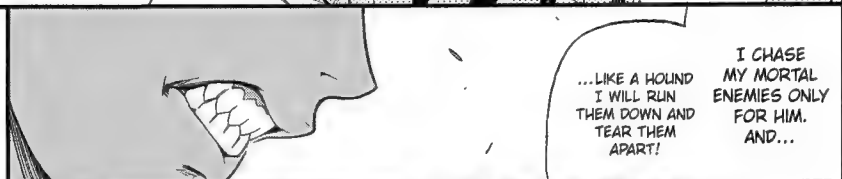


THE ONLY
MASTER
WORTHY
ENOUGH THAT
I WOULD DRINK
SEWAGE FOR
AND PROTECT
WITH MY
OWN LIFE.

THE
MASTER
I'VE
CHOSEN.

...GARCIA...

...FERNANDO
LOVELACE.



...LIKE A HOUND
I WILL RUN
THEM DOWN AND
TEAR THEM
APART!

I CHASE
MY MORTAL
ENEMIES ONLY
FOR HIM.
AND...



YOU'RE
A... WOLF...

A SICK LOBO
DESCARIADA!

...YOU'RE...

YOU'RE
NOT A
BLOODHOUND
ANYMORE...!



STOP
ROBERTA...

STOP.
STOP.

ROBERTA,
STOP,
STOP...



NO.

NO NO
NO NO...



THIA
CH
OK

WHIA
K

KRAK

ROBERTA.

THUD

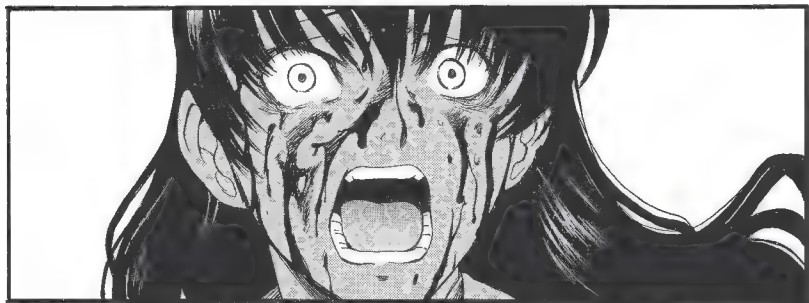
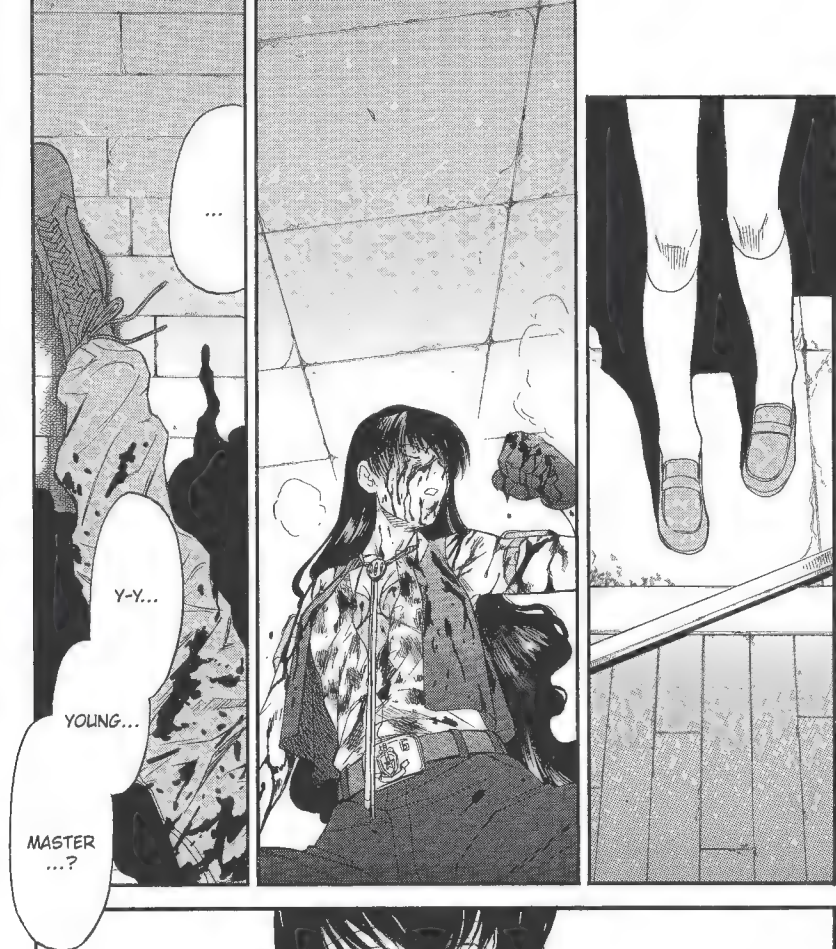
KRAK

NO NO NO
MORE, NO...

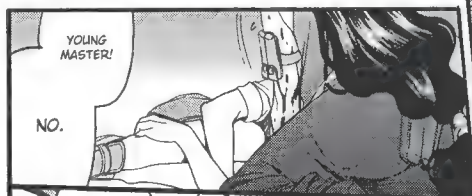
SP

WH
P











HOW
LONG...

...EVEN
BACK WHEN
YOU KILLED
ME.

YOU STILL
HAD A FEW
SHREDS
OF YOUR
CONSCIENCE
LEFT.



...ARE YOU
GOING TO
FOLLOW ME
AROUND?



NO.

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
CAN'T LET
GO.

ME?



DIDN'T YOU
HOLD ON
TO ME...

...TO
PREVENT
THIS EXACT
OUTCOME?



YOU TORE
UP MY
FAMILY'S
PHOTO
BEFORE YOU
EXECUTED
ME.

IT'S ALREADY
BEEN SEVEN
YEARS SINCE
YOU RAIDED
TAISHO
ELECTRIC'S
MAGDALENA
OFFICE...

...AND
SHOT
DOWN TWO
JAPANESE
ENGINEERS

...



IT WAS
PROBABLY
MEANINGLESS
TO YOU THEN,
BUT...



WHEN YOU
WERE YOUNG IT
NEVER PAINED
YOU DURING
TIMES OF
VIOLENCE...



...IT BECAME
ONE OF MANY
TINY SCARS
THAT
REMAINED
WITH YOU.

BUT YOU
NEVER
REALIZED...



...HOW IT
WOULD
ROT AND
FESTER...



...DURING
TIMES OF
CALM AND
PEACE.



IT WAS
YOU WHO
RUINED
THAT
CHANCE.

BUT...

YOU
NEEDED
THAT
BOY.

IF YOU HAD
JUST STAYED
WITH HIM,
THAT SCAR
COULD HAVE
EVENTUALLY
HEALED.



HOW COULD
I HAVE
CONTINUED
LIVING IN
THAT
MANSION?

OR IF I'M
DAMNED
FOR
ETERNITY
...

WHAT
MUST I
DO TO BE
FORGIVEN
?

...THEN...



SO I
COULDN'T
FORGET!

YOU!

SO I
WOULD
NEVER
FORGET!

YOU'RE
THE ONE
FOLLOWING
ME!



AND NOW
HE'S...

YOU EVEN
USED THE
YOUNG
MASTER TO
GET TO ME.



...OH,
I GET
IT...

HOW
COULD
YOU...

I SEE
IT NOW.

HA HA
HA!

...OH...

THE YOUNG
MASTER IS
WAITING FOR ME
IN THE ORCHID
GARDEN UNTIL I
COME BACK WITH
THE HEADS OF
THOSE FOXES.

OF
COURSE
YOU DO.

WHAT WOULD
THE YOUNG
MASTER BE
DOING IN A
PLACE LIKE
THIS?

HA HA...
HA HA.

I GET
IT... I
GET IT.

I WON'T HAVE
TO PUT ON A
FALSE FACE
ANYMORE
EITHER.

BUT THE YOUNG
MASTER WILL
LAUGH AND SMILE
AGAIN... AND
EVERYTHING WILL
BE AS IT ONCE
WAS.

THE MASTER
HIMSELF WON'T
EVER COME
BACK...

YOU
SHOWING
ME THIS...

YOU MUST
WANT TO
FINISH ME OFF
THAT BADLY,
HUH?

BUT...

I WILL NOT
FORGIVE
YOU FOR
THIS.

YOU'VE SHOWN
ME THE YOUNG
MASTER IN
THIS HORRIBLE
CONDITION.

YOU'VE
SHOWED ME
THE THING
I LEAST
WANTED
TO SEE.



HE MUST
HAVE COME
ALL THIS WAY
BECAUSE HE
WAS WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.
THAT IS
SOMETHING
HE WOULD
DO.

...
OH BUT
HE IS
HERE.

CH
HA HA HA
HA HA HA.

SILENCE!

AK
SOMETHING
GARCIA FERNANDO
LOVELACE, THE
BOY YOU LOVE,
WOULD DO, BUT...

GR
EVERYTHING
YOU SAY IS
A LIE.

NEITHER YOU
NOR THE
YOUNG
MASTER ARE
ACTUALLY
HERE.

RA
AND
I'LL...

...PROVE
THAT RIGHT
NOW!
A

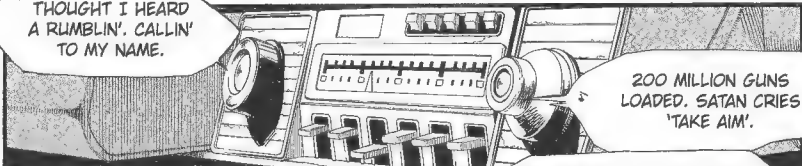
BLA
M

TATTATAT
BR!

KRAK!

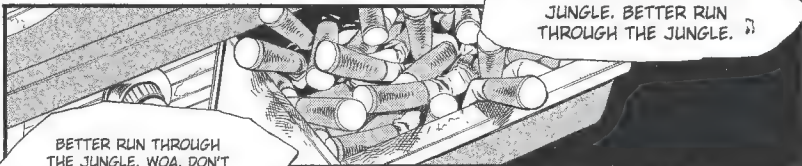


Chapter 64:
El Baile de la Muerte -
Part XXI



THOUGHT I HEARD
A RUMBLIN'. CALLIN'
TO MY NAME.

200 MILLION GUNS
LOADED. SATAN CRIES
'TAKE AIM'.



BETTER RUN THROUGH THE
JUNGLE. BETTER RUN
THROUGH THE JUNGLE. ♪

BETTER RUN THROUGH
THE JUNGLE. WOA, DON'T
LOOK BACK TO SEE.



BANG!

BRACKA!

BLAM

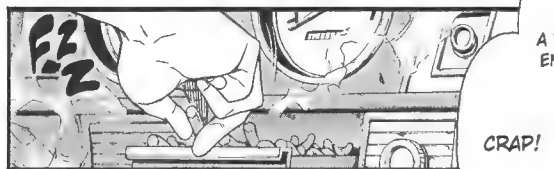
THE GUNFIRE
HASN'T
STOPPED...

BUT...

IF THE MAID
CATCHES UP
TO THE
AMERICANS
BEFORE
THAT...

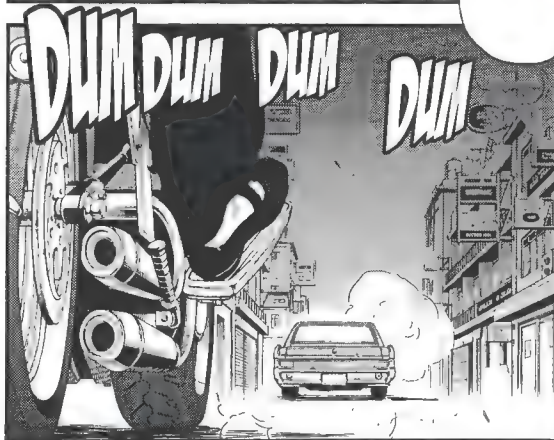
I GAMBLERD
ON THE MAID
AND GARCIA
FINDING EACH
OTHER.

"Run Through the Jungle"
Words and music by John C. Fogerty
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A DEAD
END...

CRAP!

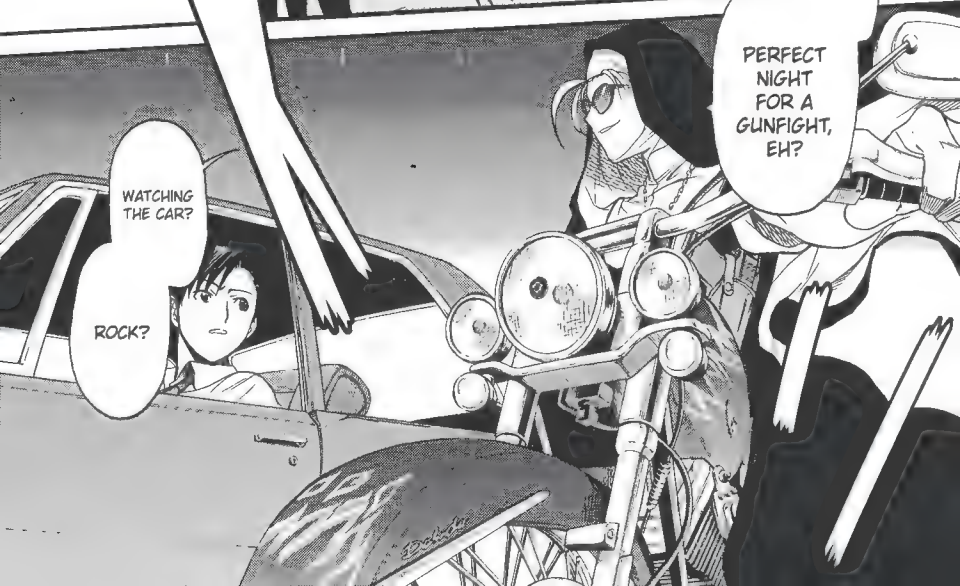


YO.

PERFECT
NIGHT
FOR A
GUNFIGHT,
EH?

WATCHING
THE CAR?

ROCK?





...YOU
COME
TO
HUNT
TOO?

...

PRETTY
CHILLY
NIGHT FOR
ROANAPUR.



NAH.

I CAME TO
HELP THAT
WILD MONKEY
FRIEND OF
YOURS,
BUT...

THE
CARNIVAL'S
JUST ABOUT
OVER.

YOU WERE
A BIT LATE,
EDA.

THAT LITTLE
SOUTH AMERICAN'S
PAYING THE
CHINESE GAL A
PRETTY GOOD
PRICE, RIGHT?

YOU CAN
ALMOST HEAR
THE EMPTY
SHELLS HIT
THE FLOOR.
DON'T YOU
THINK?



HOW'D
IT GO?

IS IT ALL
OVER?

LOOKS
LIKE IT. I
MESSED UP.

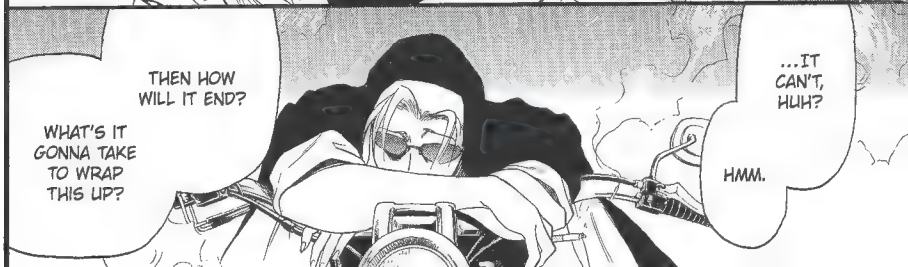
...SO?



...IT CAN'T
END YET.

...NO.

NOT
YET.



THEN HOW
WILL IT END?

WHAT'S IT
GONNA TAKE
TO WRAP
THIS UP?

...IT
CAN'T,
HUH?

HMM.

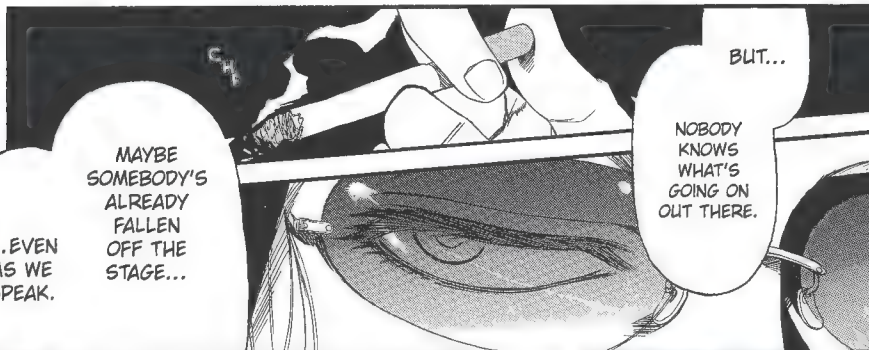


BANG

...

...THE
STAGE.

NO ONE
LEAVES...



BUT...

NOBODY
KNOWS
WHAT'S
GOING ON
OUT THERE.

MAYBE
SOMEBODY'S
ALREADY
FALLEN
OFF THE
STAGE...

...EVEN
AS WE
SPEAK.



...ROCK.

THE
SOLDIERS
ARE STILL
ALIVE. AND I
GUARANTEE...

THEY'LL
STAY THAT
WAY.



THEY'LL
MAKE IT
OUT.
PROBABLY
THAT MAID
TOO...

SHE'LL
LIVE
THROUGH
IT ON HER
OWN.

BUT THAT'S
NOT THE
END OF THIS.
FOR THE
AMERICANS

...

...THE COIN
HASN'T EVEN
BEEN TOSSED
YET.



...YOU
CAN CALL
IT GOD'S
WILL.

AND I'M
NOT TALKING
ABOUT "OUR
FATHER WHO
ART IN
HEAVEN."

IT'S THE
WILL OF
ROANAPUR.
YOU CAN
CALL IT
MAMMON IF
YOU PREFER.



THE PROBLEM
IS...HOW FAR
OFF THEY ARE
FROM THEIR
ORIGINAL PLAN.

...THEY'LL DO
ANYTHING TO
GET THEIR
MISSION BACK
ON TRACK.

THIS LITTLE
INCIDENT
SCREWED
UP THEIR
PLANS.

IF THEY
WANT TO GET
BACK ON
SCHEDULE...

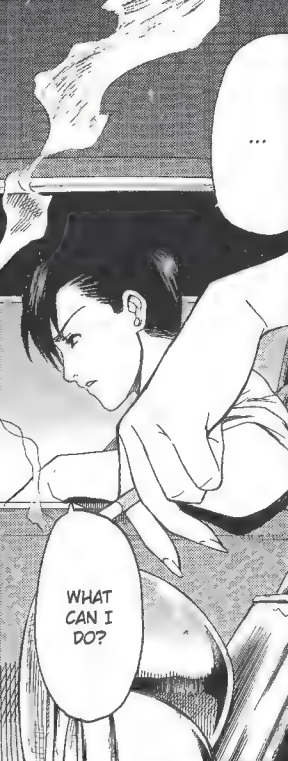


THEIR
ORIGINAL
OBJECTIVE'S
PROBABLY
BEEN BLOWN
HALFWAY TO
THE SOUTH
POLE ALREADY.

BUT THEY'RE
NO GOOD AT
THINKING ON
THEIR FEET AND
TALKING THEIR
WAY THROUGH
THINGS.

THEIR NSA
BACKUP IS GOOD
AT ANALYZING
SATELLITE
IMAGERY AND
LISTENING IN
ON PEOPLES'
DIRTY PHONE
CONVERSATIONS...

WELL
DONE,
ROCK.



...

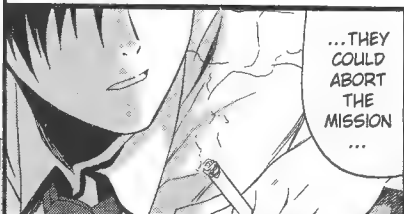
WHAT
CAN I
DO?



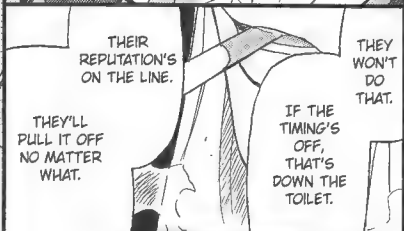
IT'LL BE
CLOSE.

SO...

WHAT
EXACTLY
CAN YOU
DO?



...THEY
COULD
ABOUT
THE
MISSION
...



THEIR
REPUTATION'S
ON THE LINE.

THEY'LL
PULL IT OFF
NO MATTER
WHAT.

THEY
WON'T
DO THAT.

IF THE
TIMING'S
OFF,
THAT'S
DOWN THE
TOILET.



THE PENTAGON
WON'T BITCH
ABOUT IT EVEN
UNDER THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES
...

...ALL THEIR
RESOURCES
ARE BLOWN
TO SHIT.

THE CASES
THEY HAD
READY ARE
WRITTEN OFF.



I'LL...

...SHOW
YOU...

...WHAT I
CAN DO
RIGHT
NOW.









MAJOR!
WE'VE
RESCUED
A BOY
CAUGHT IN
A FIREFIGHT
ON THE
SECOND
FLOOR!



STAFF
SERGEANT
BURROUGHS,
WHAT
HAPPENED?

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

WE'RE
ABORTING
OUR PATROL
AND COMING
BACK IN!



I BELIEVE
HE MADE
THE RIGHT
DECISION,
SIR!

STAFF SERGEANT
BURROUGHS,
SIR! THE KID
WOULDA BEEN
DEAD IF IT
WASN'T FOR THE
MASTER
SERGEANT!

THIS IS MASTER
SERGEANT
HORNER! THE
BOY'S UNARMED.
ONE OF THE
HOSTILES WAS
ABOUT TO
SHOOT HIM!



NOT THE
SMOOTHEST
OP WE'VE
EVER PULLED,
EH?

SHANE?

I KNOW
THIS WAS
UNEXPECTED.
GIVE US AN
ORDER, SIR!



...
SERGEANT
MAJOR
HORNER,
DO YOU
READ ME?



ABANDON THE
PLAN TO
FLANK AND
MOVE TO
DAGGER 6
IMMEDIATELY.

SCOUTS
RETURN
TO THE
DESIGNATED
AREA AT
ONCE.

WITH THE EXTRA
PACKAGE, OUR
MISSION JUST
GOT THAT MUCH
HARDER.

IT WAS THE
SAME ONE
THAT FIRED
ON US AS WE
LEFT OUR
SAFEHOUSE,
SIR!

I'M SORRY FOR
THE EXTRA
BAGGAGE,
SIR, BUT...



...
SERGEANT
MAJOR.



GENTLEMEN.

WE'RE IN A
REAL TRICK
NOW AND
THINGS
HAVE
GOTTEN
WORSE.

OUR ADDITIONAL
OBJECTIVE IS TO
GET THE BOY
CLEAR OF THIS
FREE FIRE ZONE
AND TO DO IT
WITHOUT ANY
CASUALTIES.

THE PACKAGE
IS YOUR
PRIORITY NOW.
PROTECT HIM
AND RETURN
TO YOUR
DESIGNATED
POSITION.



ROGER
THAT!



IF YOU HAD
LET THAT BOY
DIE, I'D'VE
KICKED YOU
OUT OF THE
UNIT.



YOU MEN ARE
THE BEST OF
THE BEST.
YOU'VE BEEN
THROUGH
OPERATIONS
DESERT SABER
AND RESTORE
HOPE.

WE CAN DO
THIS. I HAVE
FAITH IN THAT.

THIS OUTFIT
WOULD NEVER
LEAVE A CHILD
TO DIE.

YOU MADE
THE RIGHT
CALL.
THANK
YOU.



Sir!!

DO YOU
HAVE
WHAT IT
TAKES?

GENTLEMEN
?!



SHANE.

NO
CASUALTIES.
LET'S GO!



SCOUT
PARTY
REPORTING!

L.G.!
HOW'S
THE KID?!

TEAM,
GET
READY TO
MOVE!



WHAT
IS IT?

YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL.

IT'S JUST
LIKE WHEN
YOU SAVED
THAT GIRL IN
TAN NU.



THAT'S WHY
I'M STILL
FIGHTING.

KACH
AK!

HOW
CAN I,
RAY?

...NO, I
HAVEN'T
CHANGED.



THE BEST
WAY OUT
WOULD BE...

THE NSA'S ALL
CONFUSED
OVER THIS
MESS AS WELL.
WE CAN'T USE
OUR GEAR TO
CROSS THE
BORDER.



ROGER
THAT,
MAJOR.

WE'LL
EXIT TOWN
THROUGH THE
INTERSECTION,
BUT WHAT
THEN?



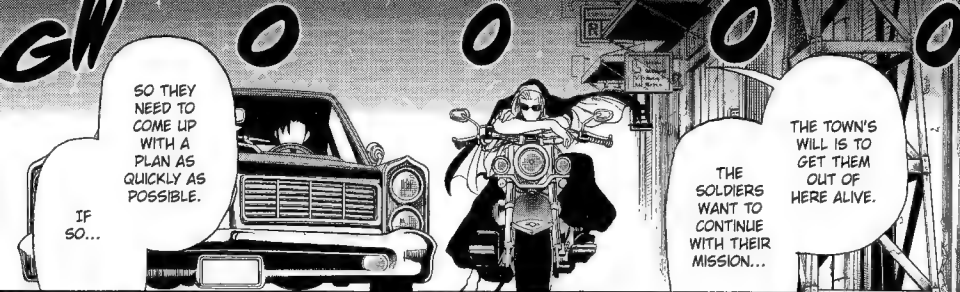
BUT WE
CAN CHAT
ABOUT
THIS
LATER.

TIME TO
GET OFF THAT
FAT ASS OF
YOURS AND
GET TO
WORK, RAY.



...
...A
BOAT.





IF
SO...

SO THEY
NEED TO
COME UP
WITH A
PLAN AS
QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE.

THE
SOLDIERS
WANT TO
CONTINUE
WITH THEIR
MISSION...

THE TOWN'S
WILL IS TO
GET THEM
OUT OF
HERE ALIVE.



CAN YOU
DO IT?

OF
COURSE
I CAN.

THE CHURCH
OF VIOLENCE
DEALS IN
INFORMATION
AND
MEDIATION.

UNLESS THE
GUYS AT
THE NSA
AREN'T COMPLETE
IDIOTS...

THEY'LL
COME TO
ME.

SOME-
THING
THAT CAN
GET THEM
ACROSS
THE
BORDER.

THEY'LL
NEED SOME
MEANS OF
TRANSPOR-
TATION.

SO IF I
PLAY MY
CARDS
RIGHT...

ALL THE
PIECES
EXCEPT
ROBERTA
FALL INTO
MY HANDS.



IT JUST
MIGHT
WORK.

I THOUGHT I
WAS LATE TO
THE PARTY,
BUT LOOKS
LIKE THERE'S
STILL TIME TO
GET IN.

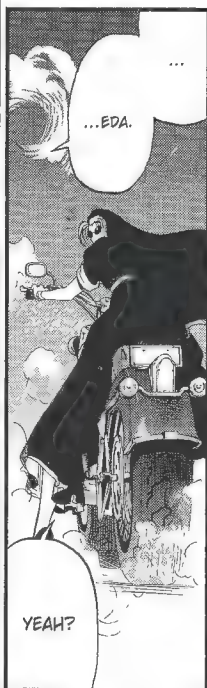
CALL ME
IF THEY
BITE.

I'LL
FIGURE OUT
A WAY TO
COMPENSATE
YOU.



...WHAT'S
IN IT FOR
YOU?

IS THAT
REALLY
ALL?

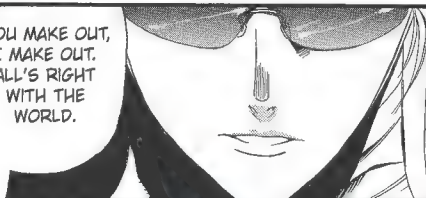


...EDA.

YEAH?

THERE'S NO
NEED TO
WAKE THE
LEVIATHAN.

YOU MAKE OUT,
I MAKE OUT.
ALL'S RIGHT
WITH THE
WORLD.



...HAH!

DON'T GO
THERE,
ROCK.

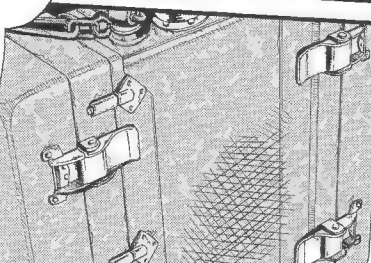
MARS HAS
SOME
SERVANTS
NAMED IVAN,
AND IT'S
ABOUT TIME
FOR THEM...



C'MON,
THERE'S
NO MORE
TIME TO
BULLSHIT.

LISTEN
CLOSE.

...TO COME
MARCHING
IN.



Приём!
(COVER!)

DOBRYNYA!
THIS IS
BATURIN,
OBSERVATION
POST
ESTABLISHED
AND IN
POSITION!

DOBRYNYA,
SURVEILLANCE
TEAM 2
STANDING BY!

THP

TARGET BLUE
REMAINS
INSIDE THE
BUILDING
ON 34TH
STREET.
SHOULD WE
ENTER?

DOBRYNYA,
THIS IS
SURVEILLANCE
TEAM 1. WE'RE
IN POSITION!

SHL-
CHAK

THE
INTERSECTION
IS WITHIN OUR
KILL ZONE!

CHAK

ALL TEAMS
IN POSITION,
CAPTAIN.

I DON'T WANT
TO GET INTO A
CLOSE QUARTERS
FIGHT. I'D
RATHER WE FIGHT
ON GROUND OF
OUR CHOOSING

MAKE A
THOROUGH
CHECK OF ALL
EXITS AND
REMAIN ON
STANDBY.

WHO

THEN LET
THE HUNT
BEGIN.

LET'S SEE
WHAT THE
AMERICANS
CAN DO.

CHANG'S
WATCHING
TOO, SO
STAY ON
YOUR TOES.

LOSER'S HORIZON

No Women
Allowed?!

Alternative



To celebrate the release of the *Black Lagoon* novel, we've managed to get the author, Mr. Gen Urobuchi, and our very own Loser Leader, Rei Hiroe, for a face-to-face discussion!

A more in-depth version of this interview can be found at the end of Gagaga-Bunko's *Black Lagoon Shaitan Bahdi* (What?!), and we've included some excerpts from that interview here. It seems their evil collaboration came about from their twisted view of women. What's wrong with these guys?

GX: Well then, can you two tell us about how you began collaborating?

Hiroe: Mr. Urobuchi wrote the script for the PC game *Zoku - Satsuriku no Jango - Jigoku no Shokinsha* (*Jango* for short). The first thing I noticed was what one of the heroines said when she opened her mouth—"I wanna eat me a virgin!" (laughs) It just got me right here (puts hand over heart). I was like, "This bitch has it right!"

Urobuchi: I'm glad the readers accepted that, but...

Hiroe: (sigh) When will the Bitch-Moe era come? (laugh)

Urobuchi: Women are like monsters—I want them to be something scary. That's why there's a part of me that can't get excited over those childhood classmate types that are everywhere.

Hiroe: There's nothing wrong with that. We don't have to create a story like that when there are other people who do it better. Let's keep creating women that scream, "I wanna eat me a virgin!" (laughs)

Urobuchi: I naturally have this idea that women are strong or tough. Like men are just male bees—creatures that should die once they ejaculate!

Hiroe: (big laugh)

Urobuchi: In that sense men are weak. Whereas the battle begins for women once they get pregnant.

Hiroe: I agree.

Urobuchi: Women have to keep fighting. I don't see that kind of strength as cute. I can't dote on it.

Hiroe: On the other hand, some people think girls that are sad are cute. To put it more plainly, you know how some turn a weak girl into the heroine? In the end that's just the flip side of machismo, don't you think?

Urobuchi: Just goes to show men can't be superior unless they give women a handicap.

Hiroe: Yeah, yeah. In the end, the heroines are below them.

Hiroe: Mr. Urobuchi and I probably can't see it like that. We're more like, "We love women like Thatcher (former British prime minister)!!" (laughs)

Urobuchi: Yeah. (laughs) That's why when other people write about an extremely hard-working girl, they have to be a bit Lolita. If they had tits they wouldn't have to work so hard. (laughs) When I'm joking with my friends I passionately argue that the size of a girl's tits is equal to the size of their hitpoints. (laughs) The bigger the sturdier.

Hiroe: Interesting. (laughs)

Urobuchi: That's why when girls with big tits get attacked by monsters in movies and games, in a sense you can watch it in peace. You don't feel as bad when you see them die.

Hiroe: Yeah... Yeah? (laughs)

Urobuchi: I don't see that as picking on the weak. It's more like watching Wild Kingdom.

Hiroe: (laughs) Like, "You got those huge things, so get in there and fight!" (laughs)

Urobuchi: So if you really want to make characters like that pitiful, they have to be flat-chested... So it has to be either Lolita or bitch—two extremes. (laughs)

Hiroe: That's a real extreme way to place value on women—although I'm not one to talk. (laughs) If you want to make them cute or put them under your protection, I can see why. If not it's like, become independent and do something about it, because a girl can shoot an AK too.

Urobuchi: I believe men have a superior position in the structure of society as a kind of a defense mechanism. Men will die out if they're not held superior. Because honestly, if you could artificially create sperm we wouldn't need men, right?

Hiroe: Yeah.

Urobuchi: It might be harder to pass down your genes if men weren't superior. Some women are put at a disadvantage because of that, so I do feel bad about it. But maybe men are such worthless creatures that they have to go that far to survive.

Hiroe: I'm getting the feeling that kind of social system...

広江礼威

PROFILE

Born in Kangawa in 1972. After working at a game company, debuts as a professional manga artist with the release of *Hisuikyokutan*. Notable works include *Shook Up!* and *Phantom Bullet*. Released his first collection of artwork and early illustrations in *Barrage: Rei Hiroe Artworks*. Writes the illustration column *REIGHBORHOOD* for the model magazine *Monthly Hobby Japan*.

LOSER'S HORIZON

虚淵

GEN UROBUCHI

玄

PROFILE

Born in Tokyo in 1972. Exclusive screenwriter for game maker Nitro+. Debuted in 2000 with *Phantom - Phantom of Inferno*. Notable work include *Saya no Uta and Zoku - Satsuriku no Jango - Jigoku no Shokinkubi*. Also working as a novelist on the novel *Fate/Zero* for Type-Moon's PC game *Fate/stay night*.

Hiroe:...In the end its advantageous to women. If men work, they can raise their "seed" without fear. After all, I can't look women in the eye... Women are super scary!

Urobuchi: Plus in today's world, manual labor doesn't have to be done by men, so the position of women is improving. Men are constantly losing their status. So it's...hard for us guys.

Hiroe: Yeah. (laughs) So that means you're not manly right?

Urobuchi: I'm too afraid of women to be manly. I have this feeling I could never win against them.

Hiroe: I definitely feel that way too.

Urobuchi: When you think about the way humanity might evolve a thousand years from now, I think society should be based on women. A society without men would be much more efficient. If that were the case, the only time a male character could shine is when they die.

Hiroe: Interesting.

Urobuchi: So nothing gets resolved even if men work hard because men die after they fulfill their role, leaving the rest in the hands of women.

Hiroe: That reminds me of Balalaika and Boris's relationship...

Urobuchi: Oh, I can see that. Ms. Balalaika is scary.



A rough sketch from Gagaga Bunko's *Black Lagoon Shaitan Bahdi*.

LOSER'S HORIZON

Urobuchi: She's a female with fangs.

Hiroe: Yes. (laughs) I like scary women, but I also like cool women too. You know that scene in *Jango* where all three bitch characters are lined up? That scene is cool because each character has a unique quality to them. They balance each other out, yet their strength as women was captured really well.

Urobuchi: Women can still be cool even if they're unfair or uber-evil.

Hiroe: Yeah, yeah. It gets too raw if men are like that.

Urobuchi: It looks intelligent when women are like that. Not in the sense that they can use dirty tricks because they're inferior, but more like they'll use those tricks without any hesitation. It's more efficient in a way. They're not swayed by some nonsense about aesthetics.

Hiroe: The only aesthetic is machismo. (laughs)

Urobuchi: Exactly! Because we focus on that too much, it becomes a weakness. That's why it's hard for me to read really macho, hard-boiled material. I can't follow it. I want men to be rushing to their deaths.

Hiroe: Women can avoid those situations. Women remain! Men thoughtlessly charge in and die. (laughs)

GX: I'm sure both of you like the movie *The Wild Bunch*. Right before the climax, the four bad guys raid the Mexican Army to save their captured friends. Before they do that, they buy prostitutes, and after they sleep with them, the men prepare for battle, but the prostitutes quietly put on their clothes and send them on their way. Don't you think that's a memorable scene?

Hiroe: That is a great scene!

Urobuchi: They shined just before they died. And that scene where those four are side-by-side and go walking toward the enemy's base.

Hiroe: It's so unfair but it's so cool!

Urobuchi: They shine the moment they decide where they're going to die.

Hiroe: They're already dead at that point. That's what's so cool. They have no intention of getting out alive.

Urobuchi: That's really the only moment men can compete with women, I think. There'd have to be a third world war for men to shine. Like a *Mad Max* type of world. (laughs) Maybe only when there's a real danger of extinction will men have a role. Right now this society could exist only with women.

Hiroe: If women die out and only men survive, we'll only last for one generation. (laughs) One thing we made clear here is that we do not believe in machismo.

Urobuchi: Yeah. (laughs)

GX: Well I hope you two continue creating cool women and men who shine at their deaths!

Monthly Sunday GX Editorial Office
Gagaga Bunko Editorial Office

AFTERWORD

HIROE HERE. THIS IS VOLUME EIGHT.
IT'S A CONTINUATION OF ROBERTA'S STORY. I DIDN'T
EXPECT IT TO GO ON THIS LONG. IT'S ALMOST OVER, SO
BEAR WITH ME.

INSTEAD OF THE REGULAR BONUS MATERIAL, WE
INCLUDED MY MEANINGLESS DISCUSSION WITH MR.
UROBUCHI. THE NOVEL VERSION ALSO REVEALS HOW
STUPID I AM, SO IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU COULD READ
THAT AS WELL.

OH YEAH, THERE'LL BE ANOTHER ANIME. (AS OF 2008)
YAY.
I CAN'T GET INTO TOO MUCH DETAIL, BUT IT'S A JOYOUS
THING. I'M GONNA WORK MY ASS OFF.

I'D LIKE TO THANK TO FOLLOWING PEOPLE:
EDITOR/MR. WOO
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COLOR/TORATESTU YAMANAKA (NE-YAN)

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KEMUKEMU, DOCTOR MOCCHI, BIH, KONYA GA YAMADA.
SHINJUKU OUTLAW SURVIVOR.

I'LL SEE YOU IN VOLUME NINE.

-REI HIROE, JULY 18, 2008



Barrett M82A1 Anti-Materiel Rifle

The Barrett M82A1 is a semi-automatic, magazine-fed .50 caliber rifle that went into service with military forces around the world in the mid-1980s. It's a huge weapon at 57 inches (145cm) long and weighing in at 30 pounds (about 14kg). The M82 has an effective range of just over one mile and a maximum range of four miles! This makes it an excellent sniper rifle, and the heavy .50 caliber round can also penetrate light armored vehicles, hence the anti-materiel designation.

Former FARC terrorist and Lovelace family maid Roberta uses a Barrett to decimate her opponents during the intense pursuit through the streets of Roanapur. There isn't much that can stand up to the powerful .50 caliber rounds, and Roberta knows it, punching holes in her enemies through whatever cover they may find. She has also attached an automatic grenade launcher underneath. This combination would weigh close to 40 pounds fully loaded—not exactly easy to lift with one arm, much less fire it accurately! But when you are one of Rei Hiroe's heroines, this deadly combination makes the perfect dance partner for a bullet ballet!



Urban Warfare

Fighting in urban areas has always been one of the most difficult military operations and one that generates heavy casualties on both sides. The U.S. military calls it UO (Urban Operations), but among the troops on the ground it's often called FISH (Fighting In Someone's House). This is not inaccurate, as many urban battles are quite literally fought house-to-house, often with little more than a wall separating the combatants. Urban warfare is nothing new, but focused tactics for clearing rooms of the enemy were perfected by special forces and are now commonly used by regular troops and police.

Major Caxton's men are of course highly trained in this form of combat and employ it to great effect as they try to fight their way out of Roanapur. Shooting through walls, blowing out doors, circling back around on a pursuer—all are effective ways of winning a close-quarters fight like this (which even Balalaika admits not wanting to get into, and that's saying something).





Where do you think you're goin'?

With the release of volume 8, the English adaptation of *Black Lagoon* catches up with its magazine serialization in *Sunday GX* in Japan. This means releases of the *Black Lagoon* graphic novel will slow down. Until then, as Dutch would say, "Everybody stay cool!"



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